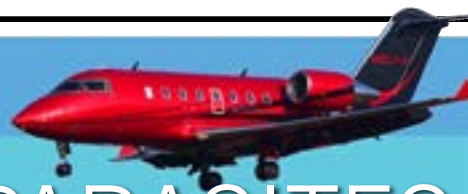


Survivors speak out five months after the fire >>Pages 10&11

Grenfell and the anger that won't fade away



Rich tax dodgers' scams revealed in document leaks >>Pages 2&5



PARADISE PARASITES

Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2579 | 8-14 November 2017 | socialistworker.co.uk

SCANDALS HIT TOP TORIES



Damian Green
Abuse allegation



Lord Ashcroft
Tax avoider



Priti Patel
Hid truth on Israel

SEXISTS THIEVES & LIARS

LET'S DRIVE THEM ALL OUT

CATALONIA

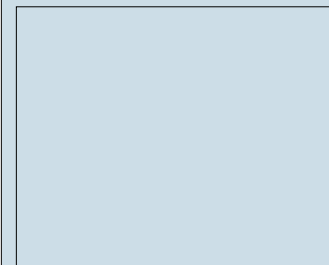
Mass protests after government ministers jailed

DEMONSTRATIONS and a general strike were set to hit Catalonia this week as a response to the Spanish government deposing the Catalan parliament.

Some ministers have fled to Belgium and turned themselves in to the police. Others have been arrested and may be charged with sedition.

>>Page 8

CIVIL SERVICE



PCS workers deliver a huge vote for strikes

CIVIL SERVICE workers have voted by 79 percent to strike over pay in a consultative ballot.

It shows the mood to fight. Activists created momentum with workplace meetings and lunchtime protests. And education unions have called for a 5 percent pay rise.

>>Page 7

HISTORY

Martin Luther and the peasants' revolt

FIVE HUNDRED years ago Martin Luther wrote his 95 Theses.

This sparked decades of wars, rebellions and bloodshed.

The revolts were a powerful example of class struggle at a pivotal moment in history.

>>Pages 14&15



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'We were all misled on the existence of WMDs'

Former Labour prime minister **Gordon Brown** forgets he was doing the misleading over the invasion of Iraq in 2003

'It does look like he picked himself a plum job'

Tory **Anna Soubry** on the appointment of former whip **Gavin Williamson** as defence secretary

'I am not going to throw away the hand of friendship to suit 100 Trotskyites'

Sir **Billy Connolly** attacks critics of his friendship with the Prince of Wales

'The queen would be completely shocked to find her advisers have used tax havens'

Labour MP **Dame Margaret Hodge** covers for the queen

'No hiding. Went in. Had a pee and walked out'

Lord Ashcroft denies hiding in a toilet to avoid journalists' questions over tax avoidance

'I hate Miss Antonia Wright'

What **Doncaster Council** wrote to **Antonia Wright** on an official letter



Paradise papers reveal that the have-yachts still avoid tax

ANOTHER GLIMPSE into the lives of the rich and famous has come to light.

The Paradise Papers again expose the secret tax scams of more than 100 multinational corporations, including Apple and Nike.

Some 13.4 million files reveal the ways that the rich and powerful are protecting their wealth using a web of offshore accounts.

The documents show multinational companies going on tax haven shopping sprees in Africa and Asia using shell companies in Mauritius and Singapore to reduce taxes.

They shine a dim light on secretive deals and hidden companies connected to Glencore, the world's largest commodity trader.

There are detailed accounts of the company's plunder of the Democratic



RETURN TO Treasure Island, starring Robert Newton

Republic of the Congo for mineral resources.

Most of the documents come from a company called Appleby. Its pitch is as a law firm for the rich and respectable.

The firm was founded in the 1890s by Major Reginald Appleby, a lawyer who detested paying tax.

It is no surprise the files come from British-controlled tax havens.

In truth London is the money laundering capital of the world.

Tory donor **Lord Ashcroft** is accused of remaining a non-dom and channelling some £450 million through a tax haven in a bid to pay as

little tax as possible.

One of the parasites named in the Paradise Papers is the queen, who has around £10 million of her private cash stashed in overseas accounts.

Those named in the documents haven't done anything illegal. That is the problem.

This month will see a Tory budget. And while the government is in a mess one thing is certain—taxes on profits won't go up.

Depending on how you do the sums, up to 15 percent of total global wealth is stored in tax havens—that's £23 trillion, and a lot of yachts tax free.

The ultra-wealthy, banks and corporations' hidden wealth amounts to 44 percent of world economic output.

That is £3,300 for every person on earth.

PRITI PATEL may have done nothing wrong. It may have been coincidence that she bumped into an Israeli politician while on holiday. And it may have been good fortune that a prominent pro-Israeli lobbyist could join the meeting. This was "a private holiday which she paid for herself". It is of course acceptable for the minister responsible for giving aid to Palestine to have secret unofficial meetings with senior Israeli politicians.



Priti Patel

A FIRE broke out in the early hours of Saturday of last week at the US firm **Arconic's** Exeter production plant.

Arconic produces the **Reynobond PE** panel which made up part of the cladding system used on **Grenfell Tower**. Reynobond panels are reportedly not at the affected branch.

The lobbyists are hospitable to Tories

EVERY QUARTER the government publishes a list of who takes **Theresa May's** special advisers (Spads) out for hospitality.

The latest list covers the election period.

Of 27 events the Spads were entertained by banks and financial firms seven times. They included **JP Morgan** twice, plus the **British Bankers Association**, **Schroder**, **Investec**, **Royal Bank of Scotland** and **Barclays**.

Then there were nine meals with big businesses and their lobby groups. These include lobbyists **Tulchan Communications** twice, the **Engineering Employers Federation**, **EasyJet**,



Doing deals to help the Tories?

Amazon and **Facebook**.

There were six hospitality events with the media including a "Bruno Marrs" (sic) ticket from **Rupert Murdoch's News UK**, and two lunches with right wing think tank **Policy Exchange**.

Universal Credit creates a winter foodbank crisis

FOOD BANKS could struggle to meet demand this winter unless because of the introduction of **Universal Credit (UC)**.

The **Trussell Trust** said it was on course to deliver a record number of food parcels from its 428 food banks during the current financial year.

The charity revealed it has distributed 586,907 emergency supplies in the six months to September.

That's over 67,000 more than during the same period last year. More than 200,000 supplies went to children. On average during



A food bank in Nottingham

the past year, people needed around two food parcels each.

Food banks in areas where UC has been rolled out for at least six months have seen a 30 percent increase in demand compared to the year before.

Small win over blood inquiry

THE government announced plans last Friday for a full statutory inquiry into the contaminated blood scandal. But it failed to announce a chair.

Thousands of haemophiliacs and others were infected with **HIV** and **Hepatitis C** in the late 1970s and 1980s.

They had been given contaminated blood and blood products including **Factor 8**. Around 2,400 are thought to have died as a result. In a victory for campaigners, the **Cabinet Office** will oversee the investigation. Survivors had fought against any involvement by the **Department of Health**.

The **Factor 8 Campaign** group welcomed this. It added, "We find ourselves in despair that a chair has still not been appointed and that the inquiry is still not established."

FIGURE IT OUT

80,393

hate crimes recorded by the cops in 2016/17:

- 62,685 or 78 percent were race hate crimes
- 9,157 or 11 percent were sexual orientation hate crimes
- 5,949 or 7 percent were religious hate crimes
- 5,558 or 7 percent were disability hate crimes
- 1,248 or 2 percent were transgender hate crimes

More hot air on climate change

Some 25,000 politicians, lobbyists and hangers-on went to Germany this week for the latest **United Nations** talks failing to address climate change.

Thousands of people protested against the host nation's increasing use of coal.

The conference was held 30 miles from open-cast mines that are Europe's biggest source of carbon emissions.

The conference's focus is on how governments are implementing the 2015 **Paris agreement**.

Paris didn't commit them to making any substantial changes—yet they're failing to live up even to that.

But at least most are doing better than US president **Donald Trump**, who has so far failed to pull out of the agreement.

Get in touch with **Socialist Worker**



Email reports@socialistworker.co.uk
Web www.socialistworker.co.uk
Facebook "Socialist Worker (Britain)"
Twitter @socialistworker



Newsdesk
020 7840 5656
Circulation
020 7840 5601



Write to
Socialist Worker
PO Box 71327
London
SE11 9BW

Corbyn tells bosses that Labour isn't their enemy

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS at the CBI

JEREMY CORBYN made an effort to reassure bosses at their CBI conference on Monday that a Labour government would not threaten their profits.

Striding onto the podium, Corbyn was much more confident than at the same conference last year.

"We all know that the economic model that allows a few to grow very rich while the majority face falling incomes and rising indebtedness," he said.

He promised a "new economic model that will create a fairer, richer Britain for all".

Yet his appeals to supposed common interests were futile in front of an audience of people made rich by capitalism, privatisation and the free market.

CBI president Paul Drechsler briefly cradled his face in his hands as Corbyn talked about getting tough against tax dodging corporations.

Corbyn stressed that proposed nationalisations of public services, such as railways, were designed to help British capitalism. This is not about being anti-business, anti-enterprise or closing ourselves off to the rest of the world," he said.

Positioning

And he tried to woo business by positioning Labour as the real defender of the pro-big business European Union single market.

There was anger among bosses at the conference about how weak and divided the Tories are at the Brexit negotiating table.

Before Theresa May's speech, Drechsler said that it was the time for the "spirit of unity again".

And Ford Motor Company boss Steven Armstrong raised the spectre of Ford leaving Britain if it didn't remain competitive. Bosses hope to



JEREMY CORBYN at the CBI conference

force the Tories to get a Brexit that protects their profits at all costs, not jump ship to Labour.

Corbyn has inspired people with his radical policies.

He should tap into the anger against the bosses, not make concessions to their agenda in the vain hope of getting them on side.

The bosses were nervous about the rampant inequalities that capitalism had produced—which is fuelling a backlash across the world.

As OECD secretary general Angel Gurría warned, "These inequalities erode trust in governments, in business, in markets, in modern capitalism and democracy itself."

"They also contribute to the rise of a dangerous environment where all the wrong -isms grow and spread."

"We urgently need to reverse these trends."

Privilege

Yet while bosses understand that there's anger, they won't look for real solutions to inequality because that would see their wealth and privilege challenged.

The best solution Gurría could point to was German labour market "reforms" from 13 years ago.

But those reforms, pushed through by the Labour-type SPD, led to stagnation of wages and strengthened the right.

And, farcically, Gurría suggested that Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy showed the way to save capitalism.

"They are now creating 750,000 jobs a year notwithstanding their latest turbulence on the political side," he said, referring to the political crisis over Catalonia.

The people at the top have no solution—apart from defending a system that brings inequality and climate catastrophe.

The only solution lies in the fight for a different society.

Court locks refugee children out

THE HIGH court delivered a blow to refugees and migrants last week. It rejected a challenge to the Home Office's closure of a scheme for unaccompanied young refugees.

The Dubs Amendment to the 2016 Immigration Act obliged the government to take in some unaccompanied minors from refugee settlements in Europe. It was designed to bring 3,000 children and youths.

But the government restricted it to just 350 in February. It later extended this to 480 after accepting there were more spaces available.

The charity Help Refugees launched a legal challenge, saying that the government's consultation process was "fundamentally flawed". Judges rejected this. The charity plans to appeal.

The ruling exposes as a sham the government's attempts to appear on the side of child refugees with the announcement of a "safeguarding strategy" last week.

Hundreds of refugees are sleeping rough in the Calais region of northern France.

The French government last week allowed the building of a small, temporary centre for child refugees there. It's a tacit admission that violent police harassment has failed to stop the refugee crisis returning.

Stand Up To Racism is set to take a solidarity convoy to Calais next month as part of a campaign to get all the refugees there safely into Britain.

Stand Up To Racism diary

● **NOVEMBER**—Activities for Islamophobia Awareness Month. Search "Islamophobia Awareness Month UK" on Facebook

● **9 DECEMBER**—Solidarity convoy to Calais. Details and materials at bit.ly/2yA5VpR

● **27 JANUARY**—Holocaust Memorial Day. Organise local events

● **10 FEBRUARY**—Trade union conference. Register at bit.ly/2j5pqzt

● **17 MARCH**—Marches against racism in London, Glasgow and Cardiff as part of an international day of action

Socialist Worker Appeal to raise £125,000

Socialist Worker is the voice of people fighting for a better world. It dispels the racist scapegoating and anti-working class rhetoric of the mainstream press.

We publish stories of successful strikes, protests and pickets that beat back the bosses and bigots. We are asking everyone who enjoys Socialist Worker to donate as much as they can and help fund the resistance.

I SUPPORT THE APPEAL BECAUSE...

The only way our decisions are made wisely is when they are nourished with unbiased truth.

I trust the people behind Socialist Worker to dig deep, explore far and

present reality.

Supporting good journalism will ensure more facts and less spin.

Tina Rothery
Anti-fracking activist

To donate go to www.socialistworker.co.uk/appeal

Call 020 7840 5620 or send a cheque, payable to 'SW Appeal' to PO Box 71327, London SE11 9BW





Tory abuse crisis shows that British Parliament is a cesspit

by SARAH BATES

WESTMINSTER IS reeling following revelations about systemic sexual harassment and abuse.

A spreadsheet accusing 38 Tory MPs of sexual misconduct was released by parliamentary researchers last week. It has led to a spate of serious allegations against sitting or former MPs.

Four Tory MPs were referred to the party's newly established disciplinary committee last weekend. More are likely to follow.

One MP has been suspended, and Michael Fallon has resigned as defence secretary. Fallon left after several sexual harassment claims were made against him.

He gave a mealy-mouthed apology saying his behaviour had “fallen below the high standards of those in the armed forces”.

But then he also defended himself saying his actions would have been acceptable a decade ago. This isn't true, and MPs shouldn't use the historic nature of the allegations as a defence.

Fallon isn't alone. Damian Green, Theresa May's most senior minister, was hanging onto his ministerial position by his fingertips as Socialist Worker went to press.

He's answering questions to a cabinet office investigation about harassing a journalist in 2015 (see

page 5).

He's also been accused of having “extreme pornography” on his parliamentary computer by ex-police chief Bob Quick. The police were searching his computer after investigations into Home Office leaks in 2008.

Chris Pincher resigned as chief Tory whip and referred himself to the police after allegations that he harassed a Tory activist.

Dover MP Charlie Elphicke has made against him. Shrewsbury and Atcham MP Daniel Kawczynski has been accused of pressuring an intern to go out with him.

Central Suffolk and North Ipswich MP Dan Poulter is under investigation over accusations of assaulting female MPs in parliament. Fellow Tory MP Andrew Brigden claims to have reported complaints about him to the whips' office as early as 2010.

And more revelations will come. Speaking at bosses' CBI conference Theresa May said “a number of issues were raised with me that didn't appear in the press”.

This scandal comes after a year of a deepening crisis for the Tories. Their coalition with the Democratic Unionist Party gives them only a slim majority in Parliament. Further resignations and allegations put this at risk.

Harassment

Some Tories are keen to explain the allegations away as political opportunism.

After Andrea Leadsom spoke about Fallon's sexual harassment, Rachel Johnson of the Daily Mail said, “She thought she could scuttle a rival and goldplate her own precarious position in government at the same time.”

The researchers' spreadsheet also included behaviour that wasn't abusive—there is mention of extra-marital and LGBT+ relationships.

These may be

page 5).

He's also been accused of having “extreme pornography” on his parliamentary computer by ex-police chief Bob Quick. The police were searching his computer after investigations into Home Office leaks in 2008.

Chris Pincher resigned as chief Tory whip and referred himself to the police after allegations that he harassed a Tory activist.

Dover MP Charlie Elphicke has made against him. Shrewsbury and Atcham MP Daniel Kawczynski has been accused of pressuring an intern to go out with him.

Central Suffolk and North Ipswich MP Dan Poulter is under investigation over accusations of assaulting female MPs in parliament. Fellow Tory MP Andrew Brigden claims to have reported complaints about him to the whips' office as early as 2010.

And more revelations will come. Speaking at bosses' CBI conference Theresa May said “a number of issues were raised with me that didn't appear in the press”.

This scandal comes after a year of a deepening crisis for the Tories. Their coalition with the Democratic Unionist Party gives them only a slim majority in Parliament. Further resignations and allegations put this at risk.

Harassment

Some Tories are keen to explain the allegations away as political opportunism.

After Andrea Leadsom spoke about Fallon's sexual harassment, Rachel Johnson of the Daily Mail said, “She thought she could scuttle a rival and goldplate her own precarious position in government at the same time.”

The researchers' spreadsheet also included behaviour that wasn't abusive—there is mention of extra-marital and LGBT+ relationships.

These may be

MAY AND Fallon in happier times for them

Labour figures' crimes shouldn't be dismissed by blaming the right

SEVERAL LABOUR MPs and officials have also been accused of sexual harassment, inappropriate behaviour and rape.

Kelvin Hopkins MP has been suspended over allegations that he rubbed his crotch against Ava Etemadzadeh in 2015 and sent her a text message saying a “nice young man would be lucky to have you as a girlfriend and lover”.

Hopkins denies wrongdoing. After the incident Hopkins was spoken to by chief whip Rosie Winterton, who issued a reprimand.

Hopkins was subsequently promoted for a brief period to the shadow cabinet.

Jeremy Corbyn said last week, “He had been reprimanded, the case had been closed. I thought it was reasonable to appoint him.

“All I can say is I took a decision based on what I knew at the time.”

He added the matter must be “investigated and resolved”.

In addition a woman says Clive Lewis MP squeezed her bottom at

an event at the party's conference in September. At the same event Lewis was recorded saying, “Get on your knees bitch”.

Labour MSP Monica Lennon said she was groped “at a Labour Party social event in 2013, before I was an MSP

“A man, who was a senior figure in the party... touched my body, in an intimate way, without invitation or permission.

Communities

Carl Sargeant, the Labour Welsh Government's cabinet secretary for communities and children, stepped down last week after being told of “shocking and distressing” allegations against him. He died shortly before Socialist Worker went to press on Tuesday.

Ivan Lewis MP has denied claims that he sexually harassed a teenage girl at a party event.

The party is also investigating Jared O'Mara, who was suspended for making misogynistic and homophobic remarks on online message boards. Labour has

appointed an independent expert to deal with allegations of sexual harassment and abuse in the party. Some members have said that its current procedures are “insufficient”.

Meanwhile human rights barrister Karon Monaghan will hold an investigation into how Labour handled rape allegations from Bex Bailey and review the party's procedures for dealing with complaints.

Bailey, a former member of Labour's ruling National Executive Committee, said she was told that speaking up about the attack would “damage” her career. She also said the party failed to offer her the support she needed after the 2011 incident.

The allegations are serious. The Labour right has previously made fake allegations of, for example, antisemitism against the left. But the worst response from the left—inside or outside Labour—would be to say that these allegations must also be a plot.

Charlie Kimber

Women who allege abuse must be taken seriously

WOMEN WHO have come forward with allegations have all faced doubt or personal attacks by some sections of the media and those in the political elite.

Kate Maltby, who said Damien Green sexually harassed her has faced a frenzied character assassination.

The Daily Mail described her as “one very pushy lady” who is “not afraid to use all her charms to get herself noticed.” The paper described how Kate wore dresses in an attempt to blame her.

It analysed her behaviour instead of Green's. “At parties she is the one who always presses too close to the person she's decided can be the most use to her,” an article said.

This is part of a wider context of minimising the reality of sexual harassment and abuse.

Writing in The Sun



The Daily Mail 'exclusive' (above) and alleged harasser Green (left)

with allegations of abuse.

He goes on to say “This is turning sexual freedom into sexual fear. The rules are being redrawn with little idea of whether any sex will be allowed in the end.”

All those who come forward with information should not be subjected to the sexist attacks of bigots, who try to shift the blame from the perpetrator to the victim.

newspaper, columnist Trevor Kavanagh euphemistically described the allegations as “what would once have been described as a bit of slap and tickle”.

And Douglas Murray of the Spectator blamed a “sexual counter revolution” for women coming forward

The whips 'killed six people'

THE SCANDALS at Westminster have shone a light on the role of the whips.

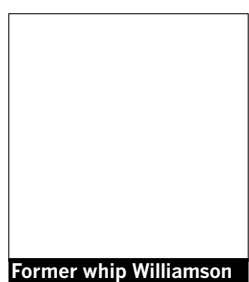
These are MPs who act as enforcers for the party leaders.

For them any breath of scandal or “inappropriate” conduct is useful in order to be able to pressure MPs to toe the party line.

In 1993 Tory prime minister John Major was desperate to force through support for the European Union's Maastricht treaty.

In a series of knife-edge votes several Tories threatened to rebel.

One Tory said about the whips, “They kept phoning my wife and



Former whip Williamson

saying 'you should tell him to vote with the government'.

“With some it was affairs, or things like visits to gay nightclubs. It didn't matter if it wasn't true, or was gossip, they still tried it on.”

During the Tony Blair governments the whips used intense pressure to push MPs top vote for the war in

Iraq, tuition fees and other measures.

The whips can certainly be ruthless. From 1977-9 the Labour government did not have a majority in the Commons. Every vote mattered.

Joe Ashton, then one of the Labour whips, said years later, “The whips' office killed six people—I say that with deep sympathy. Some of them had to have their operations at 10 o'clock in the morning and come in here to vote at 10 o'clock at night. Others had to postpone their operations until the recess.”

Reject homophobic myths

IT'S NOT just MPs who are facing new sexual harassment claims. In the past fortnight, the actor Kevin Spacey has been accused of sexual assault and harassment by at least ten individuals.

Spacey responded

to the initial allegations of assault against a 14 year old by coming out as gay.

This disgracefully suggested that there might be a link between LGBT+ people and paedophilia and oppressive sexual

behaviour.

It is also true that many newspapers have used bigotry against LGBT+ people in their coverage of the Westminster scandals.

The Daily Mail has talked of “gay claims” in its coverage.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

TORY CABINET IN CRISIS AND WE CAN GET THEM OUT

TORY RULE stands on the shakiest of foundations. In all, by Tuesday seven Tory MPs were facing investigations or had already been forced to resign as ministers. Cabinet meetings must be a joy at the moment.

One Tory MP told the BBC, “I've never seen anything like it.” They went on to predict that the government wouldn't survive and if it fell apart Jeremy Corbyn would likely win the next election.

Priti Patel, the minister for international development, has been caught out having secret talks with Israeli government officials, including prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu, while supposedly on a “family holiday”.

She then lied about the number of meetings she attended, only later “clarifying her position”.

Foreign secretary Boris Johnson was meant to be defending a British woman from jail in Iran when he instead got her prison sentence doubled.

He claimed that she was training journalists, something that her family and employer deny. The bungle got another five years added onto her sentence.

And the Westminster sexual

harassment and abuse scandal keeps claiming scalps.

Theresa May's deputy prime minister Damian Green is on the ropes. He's accused of harassing a journalist and of having “extreme pornography” on a computer in his office.

Former senior cop Bob Quick told a parliamentary committee in 2009 that Green “was resisting any attempt” to “view the content of his computers” during a 2008 investigation into leaks.

Green could go at any time. Defence secretary Michael Fallon has already gone.

May has been reduced to feebly attempting to put out fires.

On Tuesday she responded to the revelations about Patel's secret meeting by saying there would be

“The truth is the whole barrel is rotten and needs to be smashed

PARASITES IN PARADISE

IMAGINE BEING in a supermarket and seeing wealthy, well-dressed people passing through a special checkout. They have better shopping but pay less for it.

There is also a large unexplained item added to your shopping bill, which is used to subsidise their purchases.

“Sorry,” says the supermarket manager. “If we didn't charge you more they would shop elsewhere.”

That's how the race to the bottom over tax works.

While the ultra-rich and corporations do everything to avoid paying taxes, politicians compete to make us “attractive for investment”.

The huge multinationals such as Apple and Nike scuttle their cash around the globe in a desperate but effective way of avoiding tax.

It's not just that most people have no choice about paying tax.

According to Oxfam nine out of ten of the largest companies in the world use tax havens.

Many of the havens are

a review of the ministerial codes of conduct.

May and other Tories seek to present themselves as outraged reformers dealing with a few bad apples. The truth is the whole barrel is rotten and needs to be smashed.

The abuse and harassment allegations aren't new. Some of them date back over a decade. Spooks, Tory whips and other senior figures knew about them and did nothing.

An investigation by Channel 4 News in 2014 found that a third of female members of staff at Westminster had been harassed, the majority of them under 25.

In response the Tories initiated a voluntary code of conduct. An email from the whip's office, headed by Michael Gove at the time, told MPs the code of conduct was “entirely a matter for you to handle”.

To make sure the Tories can't shrug off the current crisis in the same way, there must be pressure from below.

Whether that's strikes over pay, a battle against racism or a resurgence of the Women's March protests, we need struggle to kick the foul Tories out.

CATALONIA, CLASS AND INDEPENDENCE

Héctor Puente Sierra

Plus

Jan Nielsen on Louise Bryant, witness to the Russian Revolution
Iain Ferguson discusses Marxism and mental health
Rob Ferguson on the killing fields of capitalism

Order copies or subscribe:
socialistreview.org.uk | 020 7840 5630

NOVEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW £3

ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



Erratic Trump gives a boost to US rivals

ANYONE WHO'S watched Ken Burns's flawed but absorbing documentary about the Vietnam War must have been struck by the interplay between presidential politics in Washington and the rhythm of combat in Southeast Asia.

This reached its climax with the Watergate scandal, which brought president Richard Nixon down and which started with his attempts to spy on opponents of the war.

The same interplay is working on steroids with Donald Trump's tour of Asia. The indictments handed out last week by special prosecutor Robert Mueller to figures in the Trump presidential campaign, including ex-chairman Paul Manafort, suggest that a new Watergate may be in the offing.

It also revealed the Goodfellas-type world Trump inhabits. According to the Financial Times, "this week Mr Trump said that he barely knew Mr Manafort before he became his campaign manager. In fact, they were introduced in 1979 by Roy Cohn, the legendary New York lawyer, who was Mr Trump's mentor, and who represented the city's largest mafia figures, including John Gotti and Anthony 'Fat Tony' Salerno."

"Mr Trump used Salerno's construction company, S & A Concrete, to build many of his towers. When Mr Manafort set up his lobbying firm in 1980, Mr Trump was his first client." And, to close the circle, in the 1950s Cohn was chief counsel to Senator Joe McCarthy during his anti-Communist witch-hunts, which helped to make Nixon's career.

Now Trump is escaping the pressures in Washington to visit Northeast Asia—home to three of the biggest economies in the world (China, Japan, and South Korea), and a region that has been roiled in recent months by his confrontation with the North Korea regime.

Kim Jong-un's regime is continuing to develop the capability to target nuclear weapons on the mainland United States. It has long held South Korean capital Seoul hostage with conventional missiles and artillery targeted on the city.

Tweeting

Trump's secretary of state Rex Tillerson was expressing the conventional wisdom in Washington that war with North Korea is not an option when he said at the end of September that he was seeking a dialogue with Kim Jong-un. Trump immediately undercut him, tweeting that Tillerson was "wasting his time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man".

Trump's rhetoric makes him a less than welcome guest in South Korea. However, Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe, who has his own regional ambitions, has endorsed Trump's declaration that the "era of strategic patience" with North Korea is over.

The tour takes in Beijing as well. Nixon famously went there in 1972 to meet the founding fathers of the People's Republic, Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai. He was looking for help in ending the Vietnam War, and for a counterweight to the Soviet Union in the Cold War.

But Nixon was also doing a favour to the Chinese Communist Party leadership. The inner-party turmoil of the Cultural Revolution had left China dangerously isolated. A border war with the Soviet Union in 1969 came, according to one Chinese historian, close to a nuclear clash until Nixon intervened to warn Moscow off.

Trump, by contrast, will be visiting a Beijing where the recent party congress crowned president Xi Jinping "core" leader and wrote his "thought" into the Communist Party constitution. Xi doesn't need any favours from Trump.

He already received a wonderful free gift at the beginning of Trump's presidency, when Trump withdrew the US from the Trans-Pacific Pact—a trade deal carefully crafted by Barack Obama to isolate and constrain China.

Trump's government by tweet and protectionist rhetoric has allowed Xi to pose as the reliable guardian of contemporary neoliberal globalisation. While US trade policy remains a mystery, Beijing presses ahead with its vast Belt and Road Initiative, building new transport infrastructure that will bind much of Eurasia to the Chinese economy.

The US remains the world's biggest economy and far and away the strongest military power. But Trump's erratic and embattled leadership is allowing Washington's rivals to recalibrate global geopolitics.

Defiant protest for Palestine challenges Israeli repression

A demonstration in solidarity with Palestine exposed deep tensions within the Labour Party, writes Nick Clark

SUPPORTERS OF Palestine marched through central London on Saturday, one hundred years since the Balfour Declaration was signed.

The declaration gave Britain's official support to the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine and signalled the beginning of a century of Palestinian oppression.

Thousands of people joined the march organised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

Protester Deena told Socialist Worker, "My grandparents were from Palestine. They were displaced when Israel was founded in 1948."

"I don't understand how anyone can celebrate the Balfour Declaration."

Another protester Tahyia said, "The Balfour Declaration was supposed to protect the Palestinians. But that hasn't happened—and Britain is culpable for that."

The right to point to Israel's creation as the cause of Palestinian suffering—or even to call Israel racist—is under attack.

Accused

Labour Party members have been accused of antisemitism.

Left wing Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was criticised for not attending a dinner with Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Theresa May earlier this week. He sent a video



THOUSANDS JOINED a protest in London in solidarity with Palestine

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

defence secretary Emily Thornberry recently said there is "no place in modern society and no place in the Labour Party" for anyone who questions Israel's right to exist.

Solution

That would effectively exclude from Labour anyone who sees a single state, where Jews and Arabs can live together as equals, as the solution in Palestine.

Speaking to the march, left wing film maker Ken Loach called on Palestine supporters to "support and strengthen the Labour Party leadership".

He added, "You may find that Jeremy Corbyn has to be tactical—that his words won't always be as strong

as we might like. He is in a battle against the right of his party."

But the biggest cheers went to those who defended the right to criticise Israel.

A speaker from Jews for Justice for Palestinians said that criticising Israel for denying the rights of Palestinians "is not and cannot be antisemitic". A people that oppress another cannot themselves be free."

Prominent Palestinian activist Mustafa Barghouti said, "One day they will write that the Balfour Declaration failed because of the heroism and resilience of the Palestinian people and because of the solidarity."

For a longer version go to bit.ly/2IUERLP

Hillsborough families slam treatment

A REPORT into the experiences of families of people who died as a result of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster is a damning indictment of key institutions.

The report by the Right Reverend James Jones was commissioned by the Home Office.

It came some 28 years after the disaster that killed 96 Liverpool football fans at the Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield.

Jones said the families' experiences "demonstrate a real and continuing need for change".



Remembering Hillsborough

Becky Shah, whose mum Inger Shah died in the disaster, described how a friend had to identify her body. "He told me South Yorkshire police officers asked if he was 'shagging my mum'," she told the report.

Bereaved mum Brenda Fox simply said, "We felt we were treated like scum."

Bereaved father Barry Devonside said, "The police's priority was to put a plan in place to protect officers and not families."

For a longer version go to bit.ly/2j7Gntj

FIGURE IT OUT

96 Liverpool football fans died as a result of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster

10 the youngest victim of the disaster, Jon-Paul Gilhooley, was just ten years old

28 years later a report has been released detailing the experiences of the families of those who died

Civil service workers in the mood for a pay revolt

by NICK CLARK

CIVIL SERVICE workers have voted by over 79 percent to fight over pay. This result can be a step towards turning the union leaders' rhetoric over low pay into a revolt that can win.

The consultative ballot by the PCS union asked members if they would strike to beat the 1 percent pay cap imposed on them since 2010.

The ballot was not a real strike ballot, but indicates the mood for action over pay among PCS members.

With a turnout of nearly 49 percent—fractionally under the government's 50 percent threshold—the union can be confident about winning a future strike vote.

Activists' determination to campaign as if it were a genuine strike ballot saw lunchtime protests, workplace meetings and mass leafleting sessions.

And the campaign delivered real results for the union. Some 1,600 people joined PCS last month to take part in the ballot.

Now PCS can build on the momentum that activists have built up during the campaign. A national strike ballot could deliver a strong result—and put PCS at the forefront of the pay revolt.

Meanwhile education unions including the NEU, NAHT and Uca are calling for an immediate, fully-funded, 5 percent pay rise for all teachers.

Teachers

After seven years of real terms pay cuts due to the government's public sector pay policy, unions want the government to make a significant pay increase for all teachers and school leaders.

The unions note the view of the School Teachers' Review Body "that uncompetitive teacher pay, in a strong labour market with increasing opportunities for graduates, makes it a difficult environment in which to recruit and retain high quality graduates as teachers".

They said this "critical" situation "requires firm and decisive action" and "presents a substantial risk to the functioning of an effective education system".

The unions want the government to restore teachers' pay levels to at least the levels that existed before the start of pay restraint.

A 5 percent rise in 2018 would be a first step. The unions, in particular the NEU, will need to campaign, organise—and strike.

And it's not just an issue for teachers and civil servants. Pay has been hammered across the public sector, and activists in every union should be pressuring their leaders to build action.



PCS UNION members at the Lunar House building in Croydon, south London, last week

PICTURE: PCS

LIVING WAGE

Cinema strikes are just the ticket

by ALISTAIR FARROW

WORKERS AT five Picturehouse cinemas in London struck on Sunday and Monday. They are fighting for demands including the Living Wage, maternity pay, paternity pay and sick pay.

The strikes were timed to highlight the release of the Living Wage Foundation's new recommendations on pay—£10.20 an hour in London and £8.75 outside London.

The workers are in the Bectu section of the Prospect union. "We hope to get the message



Pickets in Hackney, east London

out that the Living Wage Foundation is doing great work but the amount workers are getting is still not enough," rep Agata told Socialist Worker.

Picturehouse reps temporarily won two key positions on the Forum, a company-run body for collective bargaining that bosses present as a "union", on Thursday of last week.

The Bectu leadership hopes that its members can take over then sideline the Forum—and win the opportunity to recruit at all 25 Picturehouse sites.

Bectu general secretary Gerry Morrissey told Socialist Worker, "We can't win this dispute by striking alone."

But building and spreading the strikes remains the key to beating the bosses.

Fast results for cleaners at Ferrari dealer

TWO sacked cleaners at a luxury Maserati and Ferrari car showroom have won their jobs back—and the London Living Wage.

The showroom in Kensington, west London, is run by HR Owen. Freddy and Angelica, members of the United Voices of

the World union, were banned from the site last month after they refused to give up their right to strike.

Some 60 protesters descended on the showroom and within 24 hours their employer, cleaning company Templewood, backed down.

The workers had previously been suspended for voting to strike over their demand for the London Living Wage of £10.20 an hour.

Workers rejected an offer of a 50p an hour pay rise last week and had threatened to strike this Saturday.



A protester at the showroom

Ealing NHS cuts plan is 'thrown into disarray'

WEST LONDON health bosses face calls to resign after regulators rejected their blueprint for cuts last month.

Ealing clinical commissioning group (CCG) has been slashing services for six years through its "Shaping a Healthier Future" plan. This meant axing local services such as Ealing Hospital's A&E, supposedly to "centralise" services at West Middlesex Hospital and rely more on primary care.

But government cuts have decimated primary care. And now the regulator NHS Improvement has rejected the £500 million "business plan" for expansion at West Middlesex.

Eric Leach is part of the Ealing Save Our NHS campaign. "This is the biggest victory for us in five years," he told Socialist Worker.

"We've seen the downgrading of the accident and emergency

Ealing hospital, west London

and maternity service and loss of beds. But this throws the whole thing into disarray."

The bosses' version of centralisation always meant wholesale cuts. Now it has hit a major roadblock.

Eric said, "They've got away with this with smiling faces on £110,000 a year—now we want resignations."

The Tories aim to slash £22 billion from the NHS by 2020-21, but they face resistance.

Some 400 campaigners joined the Health Campaigns Together (HCT) conference in London last Saturday.

It heard from local victories such as the campaign to defend the A&E in Southend in Essex.

Other workshops discussed the racist discrimination against migrants under new NHS rules, and how to link the fights over pay and cuts.

Some activists are pushing for a national demonstration to build on the success of last year's 200,000-strong HCT and People's Assembly march.

It will take a fight from below, not just waiting for a Labour government, to defend the NHS.

Tomáš Tengely-Evans



Jailings in Catalonia spur fight on streets

Successfully resisting the Spanish state will mean looking beyond elections, writes **Dave Sewell**

A STRIKE and mass demonstration were set to take place in Catalonia this week after the Spanish state began locking up the deposed Catalan government.

Spanish authorities jailed the vice president and seven ministers of the deposed government last Thursday.

They will be held and then tried on possible charges of sedition, rebellion and misuse of public funds after the bid for independence.

Jordi Cuixart and Jordi Sanchez, the leaders of the two main independence campaigns, are also in jail.

Revelations from the detained ministers' lawyer about their treatment have intensified the anger.

David Karvala is part of the revolutionary socialist Marx 21 in Barcelona. "They were handcuffed behind their backs," he told Socialist Worker. "And they were bounced around in the back of the Guardia Civil police van for four hours with no safety belts."

"One needed medical attention for injuries to his wrist."

Catalan president Carles Puigdemont and some of his ministers fled to Belgium. They handed themselves in to Belgian police on Sunday after a European Arrest Warrant was issued.

Workplaces

The jailings have triggered outrage in Catalonia. There were protests outside workplaces and government buildings last Thursday.

These were followed by late night "cassoladas"—noisy protests banging pots and pans.

Crowds thousands-strong held up posters outside local government buildings throughout Catalonia on Sunday. And one pro-independence union federation called a strike for Wednesday.

Campaigners called a programme of actions leading up to a mass demonstration in Barcelona on Saturday. The days of 10-12 November this week must be a focus for international solidarity.

The Spanish state's attack on democracy has given new focus to

TIME LINE

- People in Catalonia voted for independence on 1 October
- The Catalan parliament declared independence last month after vacillations
- The Spanish state dissolved it and called elections
- Deposed Catalan president Carles Puigdemont and four ministers fled to Belgium
- They handed themselves in to Belgian police
- Other ministers have been arrested

an independence movement.

It has also outraged some opponents of independence. Barcelona mayor Ada Colau called for "a common front for the freedom of political prisoners".

Renewed

There's potential for a renewed fightback against right wing Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy.

But Catalan politicians are already starting to focus instead on the 21 December elections.

Puigdemont called on all pro-independence parties to stand in a common list. This is partly to stop his right wing Catalan European Democratic Party losing votes to its former coalition partner the social democratic Catalan Republican Left.

Such an alliance would also stifle critical voices such as the anti-capitalist CUP.

Unity in action is important, but the struggle for independence cannot fall in behind Puigdemont.

Its strength is in the working class activists at its grassroots, in their unions and local Committees to Defend the Republic.

WithCatalonia.org has been launched to encourage international solidarity.



On other pages...

Joint strike on bus and rail
>>>Page 20

PROTESTS HAVE erupted against the jailings of Catalan ministers

LEBANON

Sharp rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran forces out leader of Lebanon

LEBANESE PRIME minister Shaad Hariri resigned last week amid a confrontation between rival powers in the Middle East.

Hariri said that he feared being assassinated and blamed the Iranian-backed Lebanese militant group Hizbollah.

It comes as Hizbollah fighters take control of more land in Syria alongside the Syrian army.

Hizbollah joined the Syrian civil war and helped dictator Bashar Al-Assad crush the Syrian revolution.

Describing Hizbollah as "Iran's arm", Hariri said the group had "managed to impose a fait accompli on Lebanon through the power of its weapons".

He said, "Iran is trying to destroy the Arab world, and Hizbollah's weapons are aimed at Syrians and Lebanese."

Yet there are strong indications that Hariri was forced to resign by another major regional power—Saudi Arabia, Iran's biggest rival in the Gulf.

Saudi Arabia has been fighting a bloody proxy war against Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen—killing thousands of Yemeni



Lebanon's prime minister made a shock resignation last week

civilians in airstrikes.

Just last week Saudi Arabia, which is backed by the US and heavily armed by Britain, killed 21 people in an airstrike on a crowded market.

Houthi rebels fired a missile at Riyadh shortly after Hariri's resignation.

Hariri has close ties to Saudi Arabia, and he made his resignation speech from the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh rather than Lebanese capital Beirut.

Just one year after becoming

prime minister in November 2016, Hariri had shown no sign of resigning until his speech. And the Lebanese army said it had not uncovered any plots to assassinate him.

Shortly after Hariri's speech Saudi Arabia's crown prince Mohammed bin Salman had almost 50 Saudi princes, ministers and businessmen arrested for "corruption".

The moves are seen as part of Prince Mohammed's attempts to strengthen his power. He is also aligning Saudi Arabia closer to Israel against their common enemy Iran.

Israel's government is also worried about Iran's growing control in Syria, and is preparing for conflict with Hizbollah.

Israeli airstrikes against Syrian regime forces have further ratcheted up tensions. The Syrian army responded to an airstrike last week by firing a missile at the Israeli fighter plane.

It shows the competition to carve up the Middle East amid the ruins of Syria and Iraq will almost certainly mean more bloodshed.

Nick Clark

Jews did not back Balfour

SOCIALIST WORKER is right that the Balfour Declaration wasn't really about helping Jewish people (Socialist Worker, 28 October).

In 1917 leaders of the Jewish community in Britain actively opposed the signing of the declaration.

David Lindo Alexander was the president of the Jewish Board of Deputies, an organisation made up of representatives from every synagogue and Jewish charitable organisation in Britain. And Claude Montefiore was President of the Anglo Jewish Association, which ran many Jewish schools.

They published a letter warning about "the establishment of a Jewish nationality in Palestine, founded on the theory of Jewish homelessness".

It would "have the effect throughout the world of stamping the Jews as strangers in their native lands". They feared that in a world awash with antisemitism a "Jewish homeland" would encourage antisemitism. They feared racists would say to the Jews, "Go to your own country".

The Balfour Declaration was not sent to the leaders of the Jewish community who were opposed to the Zionist project. It was sent to Baron Lionel Walter Rothschild, friend of the Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann.

The declaration was not about helping the Jews, but rather about Britain staking a claim to a strategically important part of the Middle East.

Mark Krantz
Manchester



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Unions must be at forefront of challenging harassment

REVELATIONS ABOUT the extent of sexist abuse in Hollywood and Parliament are shocking.

But if you're a woman worker in 2017, sexual harassment at work is rife.

A TUC report revealed that 52 percent of women—and nearly 63 percent of women aged between 18 and 24—said that they had experienced harassment at work. And one in five women reported that it was their line manager or someone with direct authority over them.

Four out of five women did not report the harassment. They cited worries about their career prospects if they exposed the issue, embarrassment or feeling they wouldn't be believed.

Worse still, only 1 percent reported anything to their trade union rep.

Sexual harassment is a serious workplace issue—and unions have a crucial role to play in making sure women workers are able to say what's happening to them.

One of the things unions can do is to give stewards training.

Reps need to know how to support and represent members in cases of sexual harassment and how to challenge such behaviour in the workplace.

Importantly, unions need to ensure that employers have policies for preventing and dealing with this issue.

These may be part of a wider bullying and harassment or dignity

at work policy. Whatever the case, it should be well publicised and reviewed regularly. There should be absolutely zero tolerance and clear methods of reporting.

All workers have the right to work in an environment free from discrimination or the fear of harassment.

The TUC report also shows that it's younger women and those in precarious employment that suffer the most sexual harassment and report it less.

By organising and recruiting in these areas the unions will not only strengthen the movement but also give confidence to women to call this behaviour out.

Sharon Campion
Unison union, Birmingham (pc)

Stay and fight to build rank and file strength

I READ the article on the Durham teaching assistants' (TAs) pay deal (Socialist Worker, 18 October).

It's an unfortunate fact that union branches or negotiating bodies make deals that are not as good as what could be achieved.

This is largely through lack of confidence or right wing leaderships.

Being a union steward you can feel this is unfair.

But it's just a setback and the struggle goes on. Rather

than resign as a TAs' union steward, Lisa should have gone back to members and argued the case against the deal.

Allowing you to identify those who agree with you about the deal opens the door to building a fighting force capable of challenging poor deals.

The members can gain the strength from looking for fellow fighters.

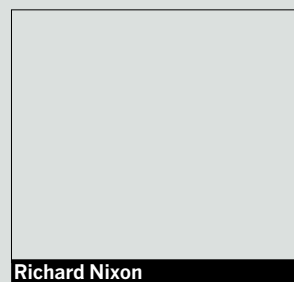
Robert Trahearn
Unite union member, Worcester

Trumps' Russian revelations aren't new

THE NEWS that Donald Trump's camp worked with a foreign power to manipulate the presidential elections should anger but not shock us.

US politicians do it all the time in other countries.

Ken Burns and Lynne Novick's Vietnam War documentary showed how Republican presidential candidate Richard Nixon convinced the South Vietnamese president Nguyen Van Thieu to withdraw from peace talks. Nixon thought holding



Richard Nixon

off a ceasefire would help him to victory in 1968.

Nixon's actions were just enough to win him the presidency while condemning Vietnam to

another six years of horror and devastation.

In the 1980 presidential elections, the US hostage situation in Iran was dominating the campaign.

To prevent a success story for the incumbent Democrat James Carter, Republican candidate Ronald Reagan's camp is thought to have convinced Iran to hold off the release.

The announcement came 20 minutes after Reagan's inaugural speech.

Name provided
Stockport

Just a thought...

Compromise kills Labour

THE PRESSURE is going to be on Labour to tone things down and appeal more to the middle classes (Socialist Worker, 1 November).

That isn't going to achieve anything.

People have been inspired by something that is different. Too much compromise will kill Labour's chances.

Esme Richards
On Facebook

Your fight has inspired us

BRITAIN HAS had six years without fracking.

And it's definitely good to hear that there is some decent union involvement. It's much needed inspiration for the fracking battle here in Australia.

Marlon Schloeffel
On Facebook

Will left back Catalans?

PEOPLE HAVE the right to self determination, regardless of all legal boundaries and traps put in place by their oppressors. Will the left groups respect the democratic view of the Catalan people?

Steven Syme
On Facebook

France keeps Niger poor

IN FRANCE, one out of every three light bulbs is lit thanks to power plants that rely on uranium mined in Niger (Socialist Worker, 1 November).

In Niger, nearly 90 percent of the population has no access to electricity.

Ilestre Balhazard
On Facebook

Poppy patriots are hypocrites

I AM angered by how the media turns the poppy into a nationalist symbol.

We have TV presenters cajoling guests to don the poppy.

I don't have to tell Socialist Worker readers how our "heroes" were treated after the First World War.

The dissolution of trade union rights, pay and conditions bosses re-asserting themselves, all culminated in the 1926 General Strike.

Richard Manser
Paisley

‘We can’t cook for ourselves, both my wife and I are traumatised by cooking over open gas flames. It’s a reminder of the fire and we haven’t had enough time to recover’

Mahad Egal who lived on the fourth floor of Grenfell Tower with his wife and children

ASILENT MARCH next week will mark five months since the Grenfell Tower fire in west London. It will express the fury that survivors still feel—and their determination that the issues the fire raised must not be ignored.

Grenfell, and the treatment of victims that followed, exposes the contempt that those at the top have for working class people. Just ten out of 203 households have been permanently rehoused so far. And thousands have been left to suffer trauma and other mental health problems without the support they need.

“We were put in hotels,” Mahad Egal told Socialist Worker, describing the immediate aftermath. “We expressed concerns that hotels were just more tower blocks. We felt uncomfortable.

“The Premier Inn hotel in Hammersmith—my knees started shaking as soon as I saw it, it’s a glass tower.

“It’s traumatic. We can’t cook for ourselves, both my wife and I are traumatised by cooking over open gas flames. It’s a reminder of the fire and we haven’t had enough time to recover.”

Mahad lived on the fourth floor of Grenfell Tower with his wife and children. If he and his wife hadn’t been awake for Ramadan at the time of the fire, they and their children may well have been among the fatalities.

Now they are living in temporary accommodation. “A lot of families are in the same situation as us—in serviced apartments or hotels,” said Mahad. “We’re going into the fifth month and kids are still in hotels.

“The kids ask what happened to the home. Can you make temporary



Mahad Egal

accommodation a home? You can’t because you know it’s not your place.”

Joe Delaney lived on one of the walkways connected to Grenfell Tower on the Lancaster West estate. He was evacuated on the night and his home made uninhabitable. He’s still living in a hotel room with his two dogs.

“I’m in limbo,” he told Socialist Worker. “For a start, the council couldn’t find me a hotel which was dog friendly.” Joe said had to tell the council how to find one.

“It’s a rule at the hotel that you can’t leave the dogs there unsupervised,” he said. “So every time I go out they have to come with me. That’s pretty much stopped me from working.”

Kensington and Chelsea council is doing nothing to end the limbo and help people into secure accommodation.

Mahad said, “Kensington and Chelsea council has said apartments are too expensive and that they are hoping people stay in hotels until December.”

Joe said, “The council keep saying they can’t rehouse us quickly because there’s a shortage of social housing. Well, whose fault is that?

“I’m on the council scrutiny committee. I made it clear at one meeting—there’s no way I’m moving into temporary accommodation. If you move me that’s it, I am moved and I will stay.

“There are things the council could do to build houses on council land. They want to do a number of redevelopment projects—why not just build council housing? They can afford to.”

Horror

And yet Joe views himself as one of the “lucky ones” out of those evacuated after the fire. “I’ve heard some absolute horror stories about some of the hotels people have been placed in,” he said.

Survivors have been put in temporary accommodation and hotels across London.

That forces children to go to different schools and makes it harder for people to get to work.

It separates people from their neighbourhoods, friends and family at a time when they need familiarity and support more than ever.

“It’s absolutely ridiculous,” said Joe. “We’ve been scattered—there is a Grenfell diaspora across London. They’re trying to fit people wherever they can as quickly as possible and as cheaply as possible. No thought is given to it whatsoever.”

There are dozens of stories like Mahad and Joe’s, but they are not being heard. Instead, the right wing press wants to focus on stories such as fake insurance claims.

They hope to introduce ambiguity into the coverage of Grenfell and



make people doubt survivors’ claims. That will help keep the pressure off the Tories. But survivors and local residents are very clear about who they blame for the fire.

Joe slammed the council and the local Tenant Management Organisation (TMO). “Whatever is most convenient for them is what they will try and push through, and to hell with the consequences,” he said.

One example of this is the complete absence of the council and the TMO during and after the fire.

Niles Hailstones, chairperson of the anti-regeneration Westway 23 campaign, looks after a bay under the Westway dual carriageway which cuts the borough in half. On the night of the fire the space was used to store the donations that had begun to flood in.

Niles told Socialist Worker, “People are still coming to us today asking for bedding, for tins of food, stuff like that. It’s an indictment against the council which is completely unable to meet its responsibilities.”

SURVIVORS ARE also being made to jump through hoops to access money donated to charities. The council should coordinate this, but often it’s left up to survivors and grieving families to seek out the help they need.

“I’ve got no idea how money is being distributed,” said Mahad. “We had a meeting with the charity commissioner and charity representatives who collected money in aid of Grenfell.

“There is a lot of stress and confusion because no one knows where to get funds from.”

The immediate material needs of survivors need to be met.

But that isn’t the only issue—a mental health crisis is already tearing people’s lives apart.

“I can’t seem to do anything other than focus on this Grenfell issue,” said Joe.

But he said that mental health support in the area is “an utter joke”.

“At the moment you can access six weeks of therapy, if you can get yourself onto the waiting list for therapy at all,” he explained. “They can’t scale up because they haven’t got the money to do so.

“The longer term support isn’t forthcoming because the money promised to the local NHS trust still hasn’t come through.”

Psychologist Dr John Green leads



Joe Delaney

‘The council say they can’t rehouse us because there’s a shortage of social housing. Well, whose fault is that?’

Joe Delaney who lived on one of the walkways connected to Grenfell Tower. He was evacuated and his home made uninhabitable

the Grenfell Tower NHS Mental Health Response at the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL).

“I think this is the biggest programme there’s ever been in Europe, certainly in terms of mental health,” he said recently. “There’s never been anything like it.”

A fire alarm rang out across the Lancaster West estate last week, a drill for workers trawling through the wreckage.

As it sounded, a group of mental health workers went door to door checking if people were all right.

Two of them told Socialist Worker they had only been assigned to the Grenfell mental health operation the day before, four and a half months after the fire.

Problems

Green estimated that as many as 11,000 people in the area could experience mental health problems as a result of the fire. Each one of those 11,000 has their own story about the fire, and the horror and trauma they have witnessed.

Yet under 100 mental health therapists have been allocated to the Grenfell Tower fire response, around 40 of whom are trauma specialists.

Some people will need a lifetime of counselling to come to terms with what happened. A spokesperson from CNWL told Socialist Worker about the scale of the mental health crisis unleashed by Grenfell.

“The NHS has screened over 1,300 people from the Grenfell area for trauma so far and more every week,” they said. “There are currently over 332 adults in psychological treatment right now and 50 children, but there will be many more. 173 have declined or postponed treatment for now—often because they need to be settled first.

“Screenings are for evidence of trauma—like post traumatic stress disorder, we are seeing high levels of this, but also other issues like intrusive thoughts, insomnia, anxiety, panic attacks and bereavement.

“It is difficult to project total numbers of people needing trauma treatment over the next three years. But we anticipate they will be high because of the high numbers of people exposed to the fire over all those hours.

“Some spontaneously resolve themselves, some can have memories revived from a trigger.

“For instance, we recently saw someone traumatised from the 7/7 bombings who only now needs assistance.”

Grenfell has left a deep mistrust of the council in North Kensington.

“We’re told that lessons have been learned by the council and that they’re extremely sorry,” said Joe. “Frankly, their actions to date don’t indicate this.”

Mahad said the story of Grenfell before and after the fire is one of “people being forced into circumstances they would not otherwise take”.

“There were people with diabetes and mobility issues placed on the 23rd floor,” he said. “I hold the council and the TMO responsible.

“They treated us with contempt and negligence and in the aftermath there was further contempt and negligence.”

Grenfell Tower Silent Walk
Tuesday 14 November, 6.30pm, Notting Hill Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Rd, London W11 4AH. Go to Grenfell Tower, Silent Walk, 14th November 2017 on Facebook



Watch the video

Our report is online at socialistworker.co.uk



Under the Westway in Ladbroke Grove the call for justice still echoes

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

LONDON: BRIXTON

The Black Panthers and revolution today
Wed 15 Nov, 7pm,
Karibu Centre,
7 Gresham Rd,
SW9 7PH

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

Abortion Wars—the fight for reproductive rights
Wed 15 Nov, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS
Book launch with
author Judith Orr

NEWCASTLE

100 years on—why do we celebrate the Russian Revolution?
Thu 16 Nov, 7pm,
The Journey Cafe, near
Newcastle central library
New Bridge St,
NE1 8AN

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Marxism and mental health
Wed 15 Nov, 6pm,
Belmont Cinema Cafe,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BARNSELY

Why strikes are so important
Thu 16 Nov, 7pm,
YMCA,
Blucher St, S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Catalonia, independence and resistance
Wed 15 Nov, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BRADFORD

100 years after the Balfour Declaration—how can Palestine be free?
Thu 16 Nov, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: HARINGEY
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd,
N15 3QH

BRIGHTON

Catalonia, independence and resistance
Thu 16 Nov, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

50 years after the Abortion Act—the fight for abortion rights today
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CARDIFF

Red Rosa—the revolutionary ideas of Rosa Luxemburg
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHESTERFIELD

Independence and the national question today
Thu 16 Nov, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

COVENTRY

Lessons of the October Revolution in Russia
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
159 Spon St,
CV1 3BB

DONCASTER

100 years on—why do we celebrate the Russian Revolution?
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
The Womens Centre
(Changing Lives),
5 Princes St,
DN1 3NJ

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS



MARCHING AGAINST the DUP

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Sexism and the system How do we fight for women's liberation?

COLCHESTER
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
The Odd One Out,
28 Mersea Rd, CO2 7ET

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE
Thu 16 Nov, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: HARINGEY
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd,
N15 3QH

DUDLEY

50 years after the Abortion Act—the fight for abortion rights today
Wed 15 Nov, 8pm,
The What Centre,
23 Coventry St,
Stourbridge, DY8 1EP

EDINBURGH

Marxism and the national question
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

LONDON: NEWHAM
Wed 15 Nov, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next
to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Wed 15 Nov, 7pm,
Oxford House,
Derbyshire St (opposite
Bethnal Green Rd Tesco),
E2 6HG

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE
Thu 16 Nov, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St,
S1 2JB

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
Wild Bytes Cafe,
Darlington St,
WV1 4HW

GLASGOW

Red Rosa—the life of revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg
Thu 23 Nov, 7pm,
Avant Garde, 33-44 King St,
Merchant City, G1 5QT

HUDDERSFIELD

Lenin for today
Wed 15 Nov, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade
(near train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

HULL

100 years on—why do we celebrate the Russian revolution?
Thu 16 Nov, 7pm,
Cafe licious,
104 Cottingham Rd,
HU6 7RZ

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

Police, racism and the state
Thu 16 Nov, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

50 years after the Abortion Act—the fight for abortion rights today
Thu 16 Nov, 7.30pm,
The Pepperpot Centre,
1a Thorpe Close,
Ladbroke Grove (very
close to the station),
W10 5XL

LONDON: CENTRAL

100 years after the Balfour Declaration—how can Palestine be free?
Thu 16 Nov, 6.15pm,
Room 217, UCL,
Foster Court,
Malet Place,
WC1E 6BT

LONDON: EALING

100 years on—why do we celebrate the Russian revolution?
Thu 16 Nov, 7.30pm,
Y Lounge,
YMCA West London,
25 St Mary's Rd,
W5 2RE

LONDON: HACKNEY

100 years on—why do we celebrate the Russian revolution?
Thu 16 Nov, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON: ISLINGTON

100 years on—why do we celebrate the Russian revolution?
Thu 16 Nov, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St,
N7 6QT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

100 years after the Balfour Declaration—how can Palestine be free?
Thu 16 Nov, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community
and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd,
SE10 8JA

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

A rebel's guide to Antonio Gramsci
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

NEWCASTLE

The struggle against racism in the US
Thu 23 Nov, 7pm,
The Journey Cafe
New Bridge Road
NE1 8AN

NORWICH

100 years on—Russia and the October Revolution
Thu 16 Nov, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

OXFORD

Catalonia, independence and resistance
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
Restore,
Manzil Way (off Cowley Rd),
OX4 1YH

PLYMOUTH

A rebel's guide to Rosa Luxemburg
Thu 16 Nov, 7pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain,
PL4 6LF

POOLE AND DORCHESTER

Internationalism and the national question—why socialists support Catalonia
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
Butler & Hops,
88 High St,
BH15 1DB

PORTSMOUTH

Going beyond the binary—Marxism, gender and trans politics
Wed 22 Nov, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

ROTHERHAM

Lenin—myths and reality
Wed 15 Nov, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist
Church Centre,
Moorgate St,
S60 2EY

SOUTHAMPTON

Can the police be reformed?
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd,
SO15 2GY

ST ALBANS

Catalonia, independence and resistance
Tue 14 Nov, 7.30pm,
Trinity Church Hall (upstairs),
1 Beaconsfield Rd (near
St Albans City station),
AL1 3RD

SWANSEA

Is a robot after your job?
Thu 16 Nov, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA20BP

TELFORD

100 years on—why do we celebrate the Russian Revolution?
Thu 16 Nov, 7.30pm,
Carriages,
The Parade,
Wellington,
TF1 1PY

YORK

By any means necessary—Malcolm X and the fight against racism
Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

NATIONAL

Housing Summit
Sat 25 Nov,
Hamilton House, Mabledon
Place,
London, WC1H 9BD
Organised by Axe the Housing
Act and Defend Council
Housing
Go to axethehousingact.org.uk
for more details
Care for Calais Winter Appeal for refugees
December
Build solidarity and
support for refugees
alongside Care4Calais.
You can also join the delegation
going to France to deliver
solidarity and aid for refugees
on Sunday 10 December.
Go to Care4Calais on
Facebook for more information

CONTACT THE SWP

Phone 020 7840 5600
Email
enquires@swp.org.uk
Post PO Box 71327,
London SE11 9BW

Breakfast in red

Wake up to Socialist Worker in your inbox every morning.

Sign up to our morning newsletter 'Breakfast in red' and get a fresh article every day.

For news and analysis on the stories that matter go to:
socialistworker.co.uk/subscribe

MARXISM 2018

A four political festival hosted by the Socialist Workers Party

THURS 5 UNTIL
SUN 8 JULY 2018,
CENTRAL LONDON

marxismfestival.org.uk

Documenting the battle to stop gas pipelines in the US

For Your Grandchildren is a film about the struggle against the Sabal Trail Pipeline in Florida. The film's director **Mike Tintner** spoke to Kim Hunter

WHEN MIKE Tintner saw footage of security forces setting dogs on protestors he wondered, "What country is that going on in? Then I saw it was this land."

So brutal were the assaults on Standing Rock Sioux and others fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline, a protester lost the flesh from her arm. As Tintner watched he gradually realised, "This is a fight I need to be part of."

Tintner's time at Standing Rock helped transform him from film student and organic agriculturist into one of a generation of film makers documenting environmental activism as a call to arms.

His feature-length documentary For Your Grandchildren is anchored by direct action in the Everglades of his native Florida, 2,000 miles from Standing Rock. Here protesters gathered to oppose the Sabal Trail Pipeline, built to transport fracked gas to the central Florida hub.

Tintner told Socialist Worker that he is trying to tell the story of why people fight back. "Why take all this action against a pipeline?" the film asks.

Activists

Tintner wants to challenge the narrative of water protesters as "terrorists". Activists are few in number, but "the more of them there are the more likely it is other people will follow. That's how movements turn into history."

There was generally less brutality at Sabal Trail than Standing Rock, though police killed a man who shot at the pipeline. "You didn't see that level of brutality because of who was fighting. It was going through a white community but they were also using different tactics." People inspired by



SCENES FROM the struggle. Protesters face down cops (top left). A worker assembles the pipeline on land where corn used to grow (above). Protesters block the pipeline trail in Suwannee, Florida (bottom left)

Standing Rock marched, targeted banks and "locked on" against the Sabal Trail.

There is little trade union involvement in the movement against pipelines, Tintner said. That's due to their "comparative weakness" and because pipelines offer temporary relief to some "people who have gone a long time without a skilled, well paid job".

But the film's trailer shows an ex-serviceman exposing the contradiction between being sent to "fight for other people's land", and the criminalisation of that fight at home.

"Indigenous people are 1 percent of the US population, but 10 percent of its servicemen," said Tintner.

That is partly why Veterans for Peace responded to Standing Rock. One of Tintner's co-cameramen faced down the authorities in North Dakota in a bullet proof vest. His footage is in this film.

Donald Trump's early presidential decrees accelerated the Keystone and DAPL pipelines.

Tintner sees these struggles as small parts of a global fight against giant fossil fuel corporations. "Super

storms are real," he says. "And they are getting more frequent."

Whether people come to pipeline struggles through concern over land rights, decolonisation, water protection or climate change, Tintner thinks they have the power as local activists to be part of a global movement.

"There's an awakening that these issues are all tied together and that government won't solve all our problems," he said.

"This is a call to action."

For Your Grandchildren is released in January 2018

Massacre avoids butchering HG Wells's masterpiece

BOOK

THE MASSACRE OF MANKIND

Written by Stephen Baxter
Published by Orion Publishing
Authorised by the
HG Wells Estate, £8.99

WHO WOULD have thought that HG Wells's Martian invaders, who came so close to winning their war of occupation in the seminal War of the Worlds, would come back and have another go?

Actually, quite a few

people have. But while it may not be an original idea, Stephen Baxter's sequel to War of the Worlds is great fun and written by someone who understands the original.

War of the Worlds came out of the "future war" fiction begun by George Tomkyns Chesney's The Battle of Dorking, which recounts a fictional invasion of Britain by Germany. Wells subverted patriotic conventions to question imperialism, colonialism and racism.

Wells's Martians treat the British brutally.

The book outraged the bourgeoisie because it cut too close to the bone of their imperial adventures.

Stephen Baxter's vision of a second Martian invasion is told through the recollections of Julie Elphinstone,

sister-in-law to the original's narrator.

It opens 14 years after the first Martian invasion.

As a consequence of the war, the course of history has been altered. There was no World War in 1914—instead Imperial Germany and Tsarist Russia have been fighting the "Schlieffen war" for over six years when the Martians return.

The Martians obliterate Amersham,

set up camp, then take their war on tour.

Elphinstone is at the heart of the resistance, riding in steampunk-style airships and tanks.

Along the way Baxter has fun referencing historical figures such as Kemal Atatürk and Mahatma Gandhi as their lives might have played out in his alternative history.

It's an enjoyable novel which captures the style and flavour of the original without being as radical.



ART

MINING ART GALLERY

Various artists
Market Place, Bishop
Auckland, DL14 7NP
£4 admission, £3 concessions.
aucklandcastle.org/Mining-Art-Gallery

THIS NEW gallery explores working life in the coalmines of County Durham through original artefacts and artwork from

A section of Setting A Prop by Bob Olley

prominent mining artists such as Tom McGuinness and Norman Cornish.

It is the first gallery to exclusively feature the work of miners.

The collection of over 300 works began after a local librarian and doctor started to buy paintings from miners.

The new gallery is part of a wider "regeneration" of parts of the town.

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE WARD

by Gideon Mendel
The Fitzrovia Chapel
Fitzroy Place,
2 Pearson Square, London,
W1T 3BF. Until 3 December
Free. For dates and times, go to
bit.ly/2z4vVGP

THE FIRST photographic exhibition to be held at the Fitzrovia Chapel in central



A section of one of Mendel's photos

London promises to be a powerful one.

In 1993 photographer Gideon Mendel spent three weeks at London's Middlesex Hospital documenting HIV wards.

The exhibition marks 30 years since the first HIV ward was opened in London. All of the patients photographed died soon after their portraits were taken.

FIVE hundred years ago a German preacher and academic wrote a list of disagreements with a church procedure. He may or may not have pinned it to a door.

It sounded the starting gun for decades of civil wars, inspiring revolts and counter-revolutionary bloodshed that changed Europe forever.

That's because Martin Luther's 95 Theses arrived at a pivotal moment in European history, when two different models of society were vying for supremacy.

On one hand was the old world of feudalism. A land owning military aristocracy exploited peasants who were often "bonded" to their estates, and held the whip-hand over kings who relied on their might.

They ruled together with the Catholic church—a sprawling, parasitic superpower whose teachings and personnel provided the ideological glue that bound that society together.

On the other hand was a new world of unbonded peasants, developing towns, rich merchants and more powerful monarchs.

At its heart was a novel way of making money. Products could be made to sell at market, not just to meet immediate needs.

Wars could be fought with mercenary armies hired out of tax revenues, not just with a hereditary caste of knights.

Conflict

The Reformation that Luther began is generally described now as a religious conflict, and in its own terms it was.

But in a society that drew all its legitimacy from religion, debates about the direction of society took a religious form. And those with the education to debate ideas were usually priests—who often had more in common with their parishioners than the rich pope.

Religion was more than just a mask. But it gave expression to deeper forces.

As the Marxist theorist Karl Kautsky argued, immediate economic grievances—over rents and taxes, for example—could be expressed in secular terms.

It was the more radical movements that most needed religious justification.

Asking why barons could oppress peasants in the first place, or why the church had power over monarchs, meant questioning a society supposedly created by God.

Luther's theses attacked the practice of selling "indulgences". By buying these certificates—or through "good works" that usually meant giving money to the church—the rich could reduce their



MARTIN LUTHER defying the imperial authorities in the Germany empire, as imagined in a 19th century painting

LUTHER AND PEASANTS' REBELLION

500 years ago a preacher called Martin Luther sparked a movement which loosened the grip of the church on society. Dave Sewell argues this was about more than just theology



Thomas Muntzer

punishments in the afterlife. Luther argued that such forgiveness for sins could only come from God. This was an attack on the church's right to prop up the elite and suck up wealth.

Arguments from other reformers challenged the church's privileged place in society.

This new religion gave theological support to the new middle class and the princes who in practice ruled the fragmented German empire.



In a pamphlet, Muntzer argued for an early form of communism

But—to Luther's horror—it also spoke to exploited peasants and labourers.

Middle class artisans, traders, clergy and students rose up in the towns and cities of the southern German empire.

They fought with the aristocrats for control of town councils, and used them to push back the church's privileges and seize its wealth.

Because Luther had the support of much of the population and some of the princes of the

fragmented empire, he was able to survive defying both the emperor and the pope. This spurred more people into rebellion.

Two thirds of the empire's cities went over to the new religion, something Luther put down to the power of the divine will.

He constantly warned his followers to "take heed and follow the authorities"—even when those authorities called for his execution. But they often took matters into their own hands, attacking clergy or seizing church property.

The unrest in the towns gave a focus to a much deeper resentment in the countryside. Local peasant revolts had simmered for decades, and Luther's Reformation gave them the legitimacy to generalise.

Attacked

Peasant armies tens of thousands strong attacked monasteries and castles, and in some cases managed to link up with—and radicalise—the movement in the towns.

These rebels drew up lists of demands that combined religious reform with challenges to the lords' power over the peasantry.

This didn't just horrify the old order of feudal nobility and church, but also the new elite. When the princes sent their armies to slaughter the rebels by the thousand, Luther egged them on.

He wrote that the "murdering, thieving hordes of the peasants" "must be knocked to pieces, strangled and stabbed, covertly and overtly, by everyone who can, just as one must kill a mad dog."

Other priests rallied to the revolt, most famously Thomas Muntzer.

His congregation were cloth-makers in Saxony, where a powerful mining industry had driven economic development and the growth of an embryonic working class. They were the movement's most radical edge, and Muntzer gave it a voice.

His sermons and writings raged against rule by the rich. In one pamphlet, Muntzer argued for an early form of communism—and for struggle to make it possible.

"It is an article of our creed, and one which we wish to realise, that all things are in common, and should be distributed as occasion requires, according to the several necessities of all," he wrote.

He called for princes and barons to be beheaded if they had a problem with this. After Muntzer's execution, the last and most radical holdout of the movement began to implement moves in this direction.

This was the town of Munster, where a radical government of the Anabaptist sect withstood a long siege from the whole might of the German Empire.

The sect's defining belief was that people should be baptised



SOME ARMIES had tens of thousands of peasants

into Christianity as consenting adults, not helpless infants. Where Luther's reforms challenged the pope, this challenged the state too. It meant ending the power of monarchs to decide the religion of the people.

The "New Jerusalem" they established in the town eliminated private property in gold and silver. And as far as the siege allowed the poor were "through God's mercy, become as rich as the Burgomasters, or the wealthiest in the town."

FOOD supplies and land were redistributed, and "community houses" set up to feed the many ordinary citizens—women as well as men—who fought to defend the town.

But these moves were always limited, both by circumstance and by the Anabaptists' contradictory ideology that sought to appeal to different classes.

And they died along with thousands of Anabaptists in the slaughter that finally toppled Munster.

Throughout the peasant wars, those who the authorities didn't kill in battle were put to death brutally and publicly to deter others—drowned, butchered or burned alive.

Munster's "king" Jan van Leyden was dragged with two of his supporters around Germany in iron collars and tortured.

The radical "Peasant Reformation" was defeated



READ MORE

● **Religion and revolution in the Middle Ages**

by Graham Mustin in International Socialism Journal bit.ly/2xUDkam

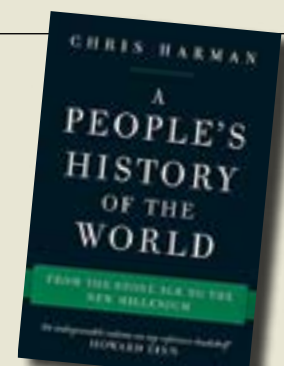
● **The Peasant War in Germany**

by Frederick Engels £8.99

● **A People's History of the World**

by Chris Harman £12.99

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



partly through treachery and its own naivety.

Too often peasant leaders believed they could negotiate in good faith with barons and princes, and agreed to cease-fires before being brutally killed.

But it was also because social power of the poor was only a fraction of what it would later become as capitalist development forged a working class.

The urban middle class "burghers", the wealthy merchants and the pro-reform princes feared the poor more than they resented the church.

They betrayed the peasants and labourers they had inspired, and in doing so undermined their own movement.

Some areas saw a return of Catholic rule, others Protestant princes who were no better.

But the church never regained its place at the top of European society, and feudal rule never regained its coherence.

The Reformation in Germany triggered another in France. In the Netherlands it led to the Thirty Years War and the emergence of modern Europe's first republic.

In England it helped prompt the power grab by Henry VIII that began to reshape the state.

The theological debates behind the Reformation serve today only as flimsy excuses for sectarian bigotry.

But the revolts that were associated with them were powerful examples of class struggle.



Workers and soldiers 'at the helm of the state'

After the October insurrection, the new Soviet government pursued an agenda of radical democracy



PETROGRAD UNDER Soviet rule

1917 TIMELINE

26 October (8 November in the modern calendar)

● At 2am workers and soldiers capture the Winter Palace, completing their takeover of Petrograd from the Provisional Government

● At 3am the Soviet Congress declares that it is taking power into its hands

government in November. But the Congress approved an exclusively Bolshevik cabinet.

"During these first weeks a steady stream of decrees, primarily hastily drafted statements of revolutionary principle, were issued," wrote historian Alexander Rabinowitch.

"Their main purpose was to solidify support for Soviet power and to help trigger decisive revolutionary uprisings abroad."

The day after the insurrection decrees ended the death penalty for soldiers at the front and ordered the release of soldiers jailed for political crimes.

Another decree ordered the release of jailed members of land and peasant committees



The decrees rejuvenated the revolutionary spirit of the lower classes

and another ordered the arrest of Kerensky.

Lenin presented a peace declaration, to thunderous applause. He pledged an end to secret diplomacy, and proposed an immediate truce and negotiations for peace.

The decree was passed, followed by a singing of the Internationale.

Rabinowitch wrote that the decrees "rejuvenated the revolutionary spirit of Petrograd's lower classes".

Sovereignty

A week after the insurrection the Soviet government decreed the "equality and sovereignty of the peoples of Russia" and their right to self-determination.

A Decree on Land nationalised the land and saw peasants confiscate and redistribute it. A Decree on Workers' Control encouraged factory committees.

Historian Mike Haynes wrote, "Schools were taken over. Councils of staff and students met. Adult schools were created, the doors of universities opened and special 'workers' facilities" established."

The Bolsheviks pushed for a radical kind of democracy. Lenin said, "We must destroy that old, absurd, savage, vile and loathsome prejudice that only the so-called 'upper classes' can run the state."

Four weeks after the insurrection he drafted a resolution stressing the right of electors to recall those elected in "all representative assemblies without exception".

This is part of a series of weekly articles on the Russian Revolution tinyurl.com/sw1917

Lessons of the 1917 Russian Revolution

HUNDREDS OF people marked the centenary of the Russian Revolution at the Celebrating 1917 conference in central London last Saturday.

Hosted by the Socialist Workers Party, it brought together people who want to learn the lessons of the revolution to help the fight today.

In the opening plenary, editor of Socialist Review Sally Campbell drew parallels with the Russia of a hundred years ago and the world today.

She said, "It's the job of socialists to draw lessons from the Russian Revolution.

"Because it's not just the era of Donald Trump, it's the era of movements and figures who want to change the world."

Oppressed

Over a hundred people joined a workshop on the Bolsheviks in 1917. The role that oppressed groups played in the revolution was stressed in many sessions.

Marxism and Women's Liberation author Judith Orr explained how this transformative change was only



HISTORIAN STEVE Smith speaking at the conference

PICTURE: DAVE GILCHRIST

achieved because the Bolsheviks had a "conscious strategy to break the material basis of women's oppression".

But tragically the revolution was defeated.

There was debate on how the triumph of October gave way to the horrors of Stalinist

state capitalism from 1928.

In a session on how the revolution was lost, author Esme Choonara argued that only spreading the revolution beyond Russia could have saved it.

She added that there had been real potential for

this to happen.

"It was not inevitable that the wave of revolution that was crashing around Europe failed," she said.

In the final plenary Steve Smith, one of the leading modern historians of the revolution, emphasised that

there was "much to celebrate" about 1917 and praised the Bolsheviks' "determination".

But he also claimed that their mistakes provoked "deep and widespread working class opposition to the Bolsheviks very early on".

This "further constrained"

the limited options open to them after the Civil War. Alex Callinicos criticised those who say the revolution came too early, given Russia's low level of development in 1917.

He argued that there was no moderate or gradual alternative on offer, only the threat of bloody counter-revolution.

Win

Alex said, "History is stacked against us and we may not win, but there are times when we have to try."

SWP joint national secretary Amy Leather urged those present to emulate the Bolsheviks and "build revolutionary organisation today".

"If the Bolsheviks had not existed, the parties that wanted to tie the working class to capitalism would have won and the workers' councils would have been drowned in blood," she said.

Amy emphasised that the ground has to be prepared before a revolutionary period. "You can't build an army during a battle," she said.

"We need to grow now if we are ever to make the kind of difference the Bolsheviks did."

**JOIN THE
SOCIALIST
WORKERS
PARTY**

- ☐ **Yes, I'd like to be a member**
☐ **Please send me some information**

Name
Address
.....
Postcode
Phone
Email

Return to SWP membership department, PO Box 71327,
London SE11 9BW. **Phone** 020 7840 5602
Email membership@swp.org.uk



Subscribe to Socialist Worker

Have Socialist Worker delivered with your post every week for a direct debit of £5 a month

I want to subscribe to Socialist Worker with a monthly direct debit of £5

Name

Address.....

Postcode

E-mail

Phone

I would like ____ extra papers to sell
(this will not be deducted from my bank account)

For official use only—this is not part of the instructions to
your bank/building society

Sherborne Publications,
PO Box 71327 London SE11 9BW

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay
by direct debit

Originator identification no. 9 7 3 3 5 5

Our reference no.

.....

**1. Name and full postal address of your bank or building
society**

To the manager:

Bank/building society

Address

Postcode

2. Name(s) of account holder(s)

.....

3. Branch sort code / /

4. Bank/building society account no.

5. Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay Sherborne Publications direct debits from
the account detailed on this instruction subject to
the safeguards assured by the direct debit guarantee.

I understand that this instruction may remain with
Sherborne Publications and, if so, details will be passed
electronically to my bank or building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept
Direct Debit instructions from some types of account



Direct debit guarantee

■ This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that
accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.

■ If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your
Direct Debit Sherborne Publications will notify you ten working
days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise
agreed. If you request Sherborne Publications to collect a payment,
confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time
of the request.

■ If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by
Sherborne Publications or your bank or building society you are
entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your
bank or building society.

■ If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back
when Sherborne Publications asks you to.

■ You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting
your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required.
Please also notify us.

Socialist Worker Subscriptions

Post PO Box 71327, London SE11 9BW
Phone 020 7840 5601

Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

What are the odds? Tories in pockets of gambling bosses

A report on fixed odds betting terminals is completely toothless in the face of big bookies—and refuses to admit that poverty causes problem gambling, argues **Sarah Bates**

THE TORIES say they want to toughen up on some gambling laws and reduce the amount people can pay into a slot machine.

A government report released last week said ministers want to “ensure that gambling is provided in a socially responsible way.”

But the report reveals the Tories to be completely in thrall to the big gambling lobbyists—and refusing to admit to the poverty that fuels the problem.

It focuses on fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs) and recommends lowering the maximum stake from £100 to anything between £2 and £50.

There are 175,000 machines in betting shops, bingo halls and arcades. Part of their attraction is the speed. Players get a result in seconds, and can feed more money into the machine after 20 seconds.

Their allure is the promise of quick cash to people with little or no money.

Low income areas have a higher number of betting shops than richer areas—and they also have a higher percentage of problem gamblers.

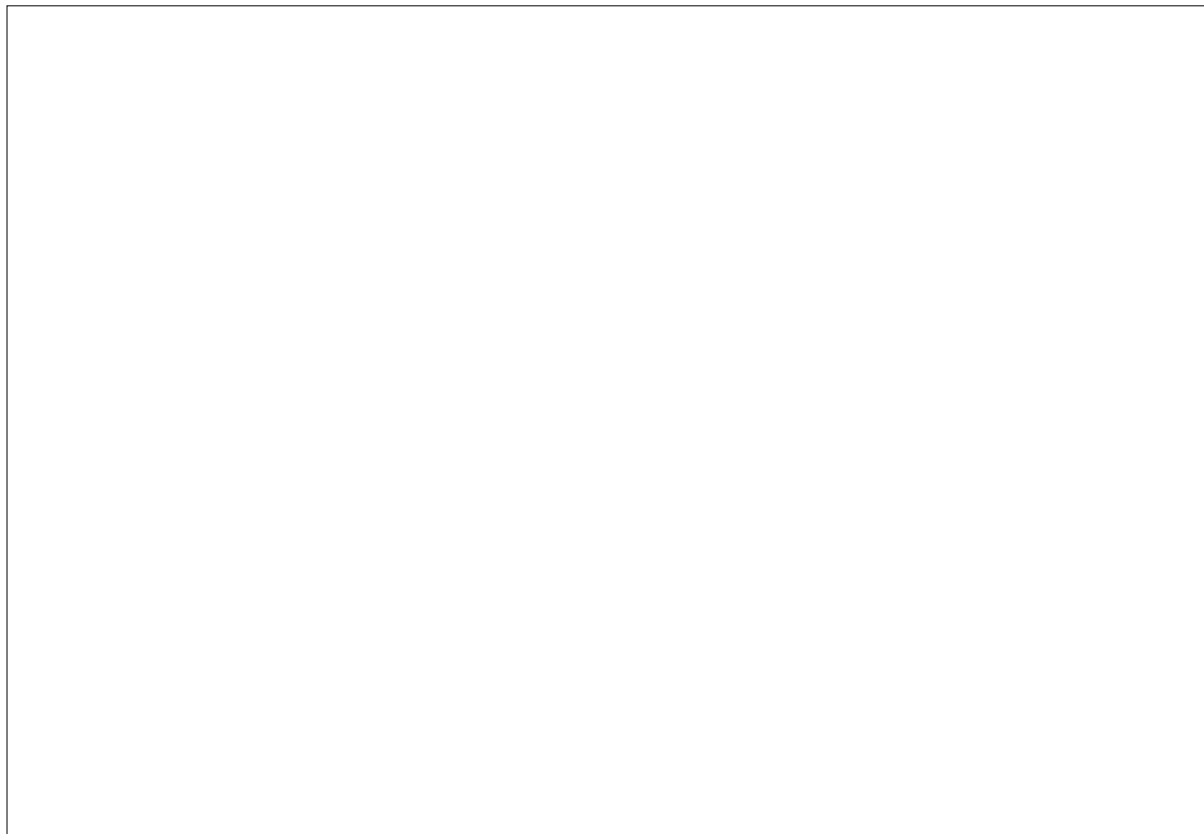
Machine

But in the long term, its impossible to win—the odds are always fixed in favour of the machine. A quarter of a million people lost £1,000 in a single sitting to an FOBT last year.

There’s a limit to how many FOBTs are allowed in one betting shop. So to get round that, companies just open multiple shops in one high street.

Now the industry is pushing for more relaxed laws and higher stakes games. Casino lobbying group National Casino Forum wants the jackpot raised from £20,000 to £100,000 on some machines.

The forum is also lobbying the



A MAN plays roulette—the most popular game on fixed odds betting terminals

government to increase the amount of slot machines allowed in casinos.

It’s clearly big business. They’ve asked to be allowed up to 500 slot machines in big casinos, which they say will lead to increased casino revenue of £175 million.

But the problem isn’t just slot machines, and of course it’s not just those in low-income areas that gamble.

In fact, casinos happy to take

anyone’s money are asking for laws that allowed them to install “high roller” machines that will attract those with big money.

There is an anti-working class stigma attached to the narrative around the use of terminals that is entirely absent when the “high rollers” are gambling at Ascot. It’s part of a wider portrayal of the feckless poor gambling away their lives.

The gambling industry should be

better regulated. But alongside it should come measures to give peoples’ lives worth and restore the social welfare that has been eroded.

The report may make the right noises about lowering the stakes and protecting the public from the greedy gambling bosses. But it is essentially toothless, and the next step is a 12 week consultation.

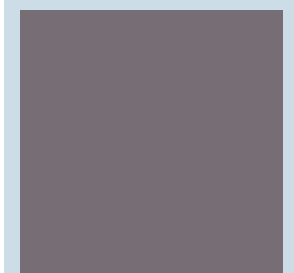
It falls far short of taking on the might of the gambling lobby.

No payout as bandits hit jackpot

FIXED odds betting terminals generated more than £1.8 billion last year. The bosses are keen to keep the stakes as high as possible, and keep the money rolling in.

They’ve argued that any reduction in the maximum stake will make bookies close down and the government will lose millions in tax.

Top gambling executives think political pressure



Bookies want your cash

means the government will settle for a £20 maximum stake.

Gambling bosses say that reducing the stake to £2 would cost companies between £3.9 billion and £8.5 billion over a decade. In recent years gambling firms have made much fanfare about their commitment to responsible gambling.

In 2015 they pledged to give just 0.1 percent of their profits to fund charity GamCare.

But bosses haven’t coughed up all the cash, so the charity is struggling to fund the country’s only dedicated gambling support clinic.

It’s not as if the gambling bosses can’t afford it. They raked in £13.8 billion last year.

The virtual casinos that fleece you for cash at home

PEOPLE ARE gambling more than ever before—and now they don’t have even to leave their homes.

Online gambling is transforming how people bet money and is the fastest growing sector of the industry.

Some seven million people gamble online.

That’s 10 percent of the adult population gambling last year. At least 5 percent of online gamblers are said to have a gambling problem.

Customers are lured in with flashy promotions

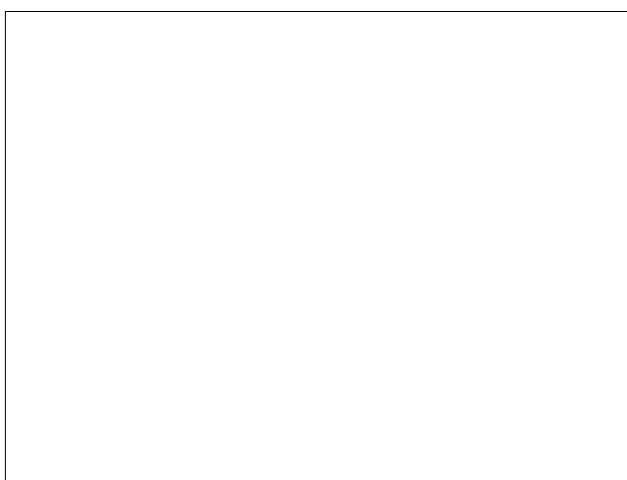
and promises of free bets.

But unlike machines in betting shops or casinos, all online gambling is account-based.

So companies know all about the customers’ habits, and are able to spot signs of addictive behaviour.

They could use this information to point players to addiction help, or impose time or cash limits on them.

Instead they use that information to tailor advertising to gambling offers that might interest them. Computer



Many people can’t jack in online gambling

advertising formulas intensely target people who have searched for gambling websites.

Adverts for these websites will show up whenever they use the internet.

In offline gambling “self-exclusion” is a formal process.

Someone can ask a bookmaker to close their account and stop taking their money.

But this kind of process doesn’t exist online.

That means it can be much harder to escape an addiction.

IN BRIEF

Plymouth fight to halt office closure

CIVIL SERVICE workers in the PCS union at a benefits office in Plymouth struck on Monday against the closure of their office.

Bosses want to relocate the office to a new site north of the city. The PCS says this will put it “well outside reasonable daily travel” time from workers’ homes.

The closure is just one of many planned by the DWP at office across Britain.

The strike came after a jobcentre in Sheffield closed last week despite valiant strikes by PCS members to keep it open.

MoD cleaners want to rub out bosses

LOW PAID workers at the Ministry of Defence’s Fort Blockhouse in Gosport were set to stage a wage robbery protest on Wednesday.

The employer is cutting their working year from 52 to 50 weeks. The cut is set to cost each worker around £500.

The workers are members of the Unite union. They are employed by ESS, part of the Compass Group, which paid its boss £5.8 million last year.

Tell Fujitsu not to victimise union reps

A PROTEST was set to take place outside Fujitsu’s British headquarters in central London on Wednesday.

Fujitsu is making 1,800 job cuts and workers say bosses are rigging the redundancy process to get rid of reps.

The protest coincides with the final redundancy hearing of leading rep Ian Allinson.

Capita’s nine-day action on pensions

UNITE UNION members at outsourcing company Capita struck across Britain last week against attacks on their pensions. The nine-day walkout ended on Sunday.

Half a victory at Manchester airport

THE UNITE union has called off a cleaners’ strike at Manchester airport.

They gained some improvements, including double time for working at Christmas and New Year.

The workers, previously on the minimum wage had demanded £1 an hour above it. Now they’ll get a 50p increase.

Gas plant workers say rise is hot air

AROUND 80 workers are set to begin strikes over pay this month at the Shetland Gas Plant. The Unite union members are employed by subcontractor Aker Solutions at the terminal run by Total.

They are to strike on Mondays and Wednesdays from 20 November.

FRACKING



ACTIVISTS, RESIDENTS and unions united

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

Determined to battle the frackers’ new well

by KIM HUNTER

CHANTS OF “Theresa May, hear us say, no fracking way,” rang across North Yorkshire countryside last Saturday as a 200-plus trade union solidarity march followed the PCS union’s samba band to Third Energy’s KM8 fracking well.

The KM8 test frack is expected as soon as Tory business secretary Greg Clarke rubber stamps government approval.

The demonstration was called by the Unite Union’s Community section. It was backed by union branches and trades councils with speakers from anti-fracking groups, Labour and Green party branches and Lib Dem and independent councillors.

Campaigners said they felt uplifted by the solidarity.

Local campaigner Mark told Socialist Worker, “This has given me the strength to keep going.”

At the rally, local resident Hazel called for help from “everyone, up and down the country”.

Speakers from the Unite, RMT, FBU unions and trades councils said that environment and fracking must be trade union issues. Particularly in the face of accelerating climate change and governments that back fossil fuel bosses.

Unite organiser John Coan vowed to back his members’ continued campaigning against fracking.

James Eaden of Chesterfield trades council said unions always involve themselves

in the great moral issues of their day. North Yorkshire FBU secretary Steve Howley confirmed he had told management, “We will not be getting involved in police business,” after firefighters were asked to aid an arrest at the site.

Cat Cray, residents’ daughter and an RMT membership secretary, said organised workers are crucial allies.

She said, “We know how to do this stuff. It’s what we do!”

Every Labour speaker vowed that a Labour government would ban fracking.

● This Saturday, 11 November, trade unionists and anti-fracking campaigners will join forces at Preston New Road. For full details go to bit.ly/2AdVIB7

AVIATION

BA strike deal shows it was right to fight

THE LONG running dispute of cabin crew at British Airways (BA) came to an end last week as workers voted overwhelmingly to accept a new pay deal.

Unite union members in BA’s “mixed fleet” won a wage increase and overturned BA’s removal of certain bonuses and allowances to punish strikers.

None of this would have been achieved without the strikers’ courage and resolve.

The deal is a vindication of the decision to strike. But after striking for more than 80 days against poverty pay, some workers are frustrated that more wasn’t won.

Unite said the deal meant “pay increases of at least £1,404 to £2,908 by March 2018 depending on experience and subject to inflation.” Workers have

complex pay packages including a basic salary and variable components. Unite said at the start of the dispute that the total averaged at less than £16,000 a year.

One mixed fleet rep told Socialist Worker, “All aspects of the pay structure have been uplifted. There are no unfair sanctions for taking industrial action.”

“It’s drastically improved from the previous deal.”

Most workers—84 percent of those voting—did vote to accept the deal. That means 16 percent voted no.

One posted on the strikers’ page on Facebook that, “This pay deal does nothing to ease anxiety and stress due to the huge fluctuation in wages from month to month.”

“We need a higher basic wage in line with the London

Living Wage.”

For too long a hard core of strikers were left to fight on while Unite’s leadership made little effort to rally the rest of the workforce. And Unite responded to BA’s use of scab planes with legal threats, rather than seeking to spread the action.

Unite general secretary Len McCluskey said, “Not only does this pay deal start to seriously address long standing concerns on low pay in British Airways’ mixed fleet, but it also shows that it pays to be a member of a union and of Unite.”

That’s true. But with new attacks in the pipeline on BA’s pension schemes, it also shows that workers will have to demand more of their union to get the victory their action deserves.

Dave Sewell

ISLAMOPHOBIA



The meeting went ahead despite efforts to stop it

PICTURE: MEND

Say no to Trojan Horse lies

HUNDREDS OF people joined a meeting in Birmingham last week about the Trojan Horse allegations—despite attempts to stop it. The original venue for the meeting cancelled the event after pressure from the Daily Telegraph.

Organised by Muslim Engagement and Development (Mend), the meeting went ahead in another venue.

Nick Timothy, chief of staff to Theresa May before the general election wrote an article in the paper saying that “it is appalling that Mend are plotting to mislead the local community again”.

Birmingham council later put out a statement “raising concerns”.

Mend said that Trojan

Horse was driven by “a hoax letter, a media scrum, a forceful education secretary and political motivations”.

Speakers included Kevin Courtney, joint general secretary of the NEU teachers’ union, and Tahir Alam, former chair of governors of Parkview School.

Salma Yaqoob began the meeting by saying, “Just being here is an act of resistance.”

A motion passed at the meeting said, “The high court has thrown out several cases against so-called Trojan Horse teachers.”

“The affair has been used to silence Muslim voices.”

It called for an independent investigation into the “abuse of power which took place”.

HOUSING

Haringey Labour falls out

THE £2 BILLION plan to redevelop seven estates in the north London borough of Haringey is facing serious problems.

Last week one Haringey councillor, Stuart McNamara, publicly attacked council leader Clare Kober, one of the main architects of the Haringey Development Vehicle (HDV).

The letter slams Kober because her “intransigence over the HDV has now led to the council being dragged through the courts”.

It also details the “existence of a Shadow HDV Board, which has apparently been meeting in private, and before any Cabinet decision to proceed with the HDV.”

McNamara slammed Kober for cuts and selloffs throughout the borough, describing “an ugly fog of hubris” at the council chambers. The HDV has become politically toxic, thanks largely to the work of residents and activists in organising on estates and coming on to the streets.

SELLAFIELD

Nuclear plant strike raises the temperature over pay

MORE THAN 1,100 maintenance workers and electricians struck at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant on Tuesday for a better pay deal.

The Unite union members rejected a 1.5 percent pay offer imposed by Sellafield Ltd and the government-run Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

The GMB union’s 3,000 workers at Sellafield struck against the same pay offer in September. The unions could hit harder by joining forces

and striking together.

Unite accused “the unseen hands of government ministers” for derailing “positive” pay talks.

Whether or not that’s true, it’s clear that an inflation-busting deal for the Sellafield workers would increase the pressure for better pay across the public sector.

Unite regional officer Graham Williams warned, “Tuesday’s strike is a shot across the bows and more strikes are on the cards in the run-up to Christmas.”

ANTI-FASCISM

Top Nazi's book launch is messed up in Manchester

by PAUL JENKINS

AROUND 150 people joined a protest in Manchester last Friday in opposition to a book launch by fascist English Defence League founder Tommy Robinson.

The protest was called by Unite Against Fascism (UAF).

Robinson had tried to hold his event at The Bowlers Exhibition Centre in Trafford, Greater Manchester.

But following what they called "unprecedented opposition" to an event at their venue, The Bowlers cancelled.

This forced Robinson to relocate to Manchester city centre—and it visibly affected numbers.

Robinson had claimed to have sold 1,000 tickets at a prestigious venue. Instead around 400 turned up to be handed books by Robinson from the back of a van.

UAF protesters marched from St Peter's Square to protest against Robinson's event. Anti-fascist chanting and speeches could be heard loud and clear by his supporters and disrupted the 'book launch'.

A number of trade unions—including the CWU, FBU, GMB, NEU, PCS, Unison and Unite—backed UAF's protest. So did MPs, MEPs, councillors and others.

Dan Hett, brother of one of the 22 people killed in the attack in Manchester Arena in May, spoke at the protest. Dan had received abuse from Tommy Robinson's supporters after criticising Robinson's attempts

BROMLEY



UP TO 300 counter-protesters came out to oppose the vile Britain First in Bromley, south east London, on Saturday.

The fascist group mustered fewer than 50 people for what was meant to be a national call-out. They were protesting at Bromley police station

where their leaders Paul Golding and Jayda Fransen must report every Saturday as part of their bail conditions. Anti-fascists drowned them out for hours.

Huge cheers went up as the police eventually had to escort the demoralised Nazis away to chants of "Bromley doesn't want you".

REPORT AND PICTURE: NATHAN PETTEFAR

to whip up racism following the attack.

Robinson's followers heckled Dan during his speech at the protest.

In the run-up to the demonstration, Dan said, "I am wholly in support of standing up against Tommy Robinson's 'book launch' in my home city of Manchester. There is only one

reason he chose this city, and that is the attacks we suffered so recently.

"As this city is still healing, Tommy has cynically booked his event right at the epicentre.

"This is in order to maximise press and commentary around launching his book of anti-Islam propaganda—using the extremist attack to further

his own fascist agenda, and line his own pockets.

"Manchester is a vibrant, creative, multicultural city that is still reeling from the attack on its people, and we stand together to tell Tommy and his followers that they are not welcome here."

●Go to uaf.org.uk

COURT REPORT

'Lie after lie' by accused in refugee beating trial

THE PROSECUTION in the trial of six people charged in relation to an attack on refugee Reker Ahmed summed up its case last week.

Ahmed was attacked in Croydon, south London, in March of this year.

George Walder, Liam Neylon, Daryl Davis, Danyelle Davis, and Kyran Evans are each charged with two counts of violent disorder.

Kurt Killick has been charged with grievous bodily harm with intent as well as two counts of violent disorder.

They all deny the charges.

Prosecutor Jonathan Polnay said of the accounts

given by the six defendants, "There has been blatant lie after lie after lie about what they saw and what they did."

"It was a mob and a pack mentality took hold—or, perhaps, a family mentality," said Polnay. "This was a fight, as simple as that, and it turned into a mob beating.

"They were like family, this really was a family enterprise—you mess with one of us, you mess with all of us.

Polnay said, "We have heard that blood was spilling from Reker Ahmed's head. That he was shielding his face and screaming his head off."

The trial continues.

EDUCATION

School workers strike to defend sick pay

by SADIE ROBINSON

WORKERS AT Charlton Park Academy special needs school in south east London struck on Tuesday against attacks on their sick pay. GMB and NEU union members both walked out and were set to strike again on Thursday.

Workers on newer contracts now receive less sick pay.

Head Mark Dale-Emberton didn't inform workers of the change. Teacher and NEU member Anne said, "We only found out when one member of staff was off sick and after a certain time discovered she wasn't receiving sick pay. Then he offered us £15 a month to buy insurance instead."

Tony, a teaching assistant and GMB rep, said, "We could get sick at any time. I had a cancer scare four weeks ago. We need to be treated all the



Pickets at Charlton Park on Tuesday

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

same—we're all doing the same job."

One initial proposal said staff facing disciplinary issues who said they suffered depression, anxiety or stress may not receive sick pay.

"I've been off sick with stress," said Anne. "I feel like the head is saying, maybe I wasn't really sick. It's insulting."

Dale-Emberton has agreed to talks on Monday. Workers plan further walkouts on Thursday of next week and Tuesday 21 November if there is no agreement.

●Some names have been changed. For a longer article go to bit.ly/2zphQ74. Complain to mdale-emberton@charltonparkacademy.co.uk

IN BRIEF

Infra-red stoppage on Croydon trams

DRIVERS ON the Croydon Tramlink in south London plan to hold two 24 hour walkouts over health and safety. The Aslef union members are set to strike next Wednesday and on 6 December.

After a fatal accident last year, bosses have installed a device that shines an infra-red light into drivers' faces

Aslef says its members "have reported blurred vision and potentially serious eye damage" as a result.

The union called for an automatic tram protection system to prevent accidents.

Mears workers call 49 new strike days

HOUSING MAINTENANCE workers in Manchester are set to launch a new wave of strikes next Monday.

The Unite union members are employed by Mears. They struck for 40 days earlier this year for pay parity, but paused after 12 weeks to run a new ballot.

The workers maintain council homes. Some are paid up to £3,500 less than others for the same work.

The new action consists of 23 two-day strikes and three one-day strikes running into February.

Brighton lecturers vote for jobs fight

UCU UNION members at the University of Brighton have voted by 85 percent for strikes against compulsory redundancies.

Two UCU members face compulsory redundancy. The UCU branch said more job cuts are "unwarranted given the departure of 90 staff under the severance scheme just a few weeks ago".

The branch has requested authorisation from the national union for strikes and action short of a strike.

Labour expulsion is overturned

THE LABOUR Party has readmitted left wing academic Moshe Machover following an uproar.

Machover was expelled over an article he wrote defending anti-Zionism.

Officially his expulsion was for belonging to a "rival" organisation. But the article was also wrongly accused of being antisemitic.

Councillors, don't scrap our college

PROTESTERS gathered at Wornington College in west London on Monday evening.

The college is to be axed in a redevelopment project, leaving students nowhere to go. After the Grenfell Tower fire Kensington and Chelsea council said it would pause all redevelopment projects.

JOINT STRIKE ON RAIL AND BUSES

by SARAH BATES

BUS AND rail workers in the north west of England were set for a coordinated strike this Wednesday.

The walkout will involve over 2,000 bus drivers and engineering workers employed by Arriva North West across 11 depots.

And RMT union members across six rail networks—Southern, Greater Anglia, South West Railways, Island Line, Northern and Merseyrail—will be out too.

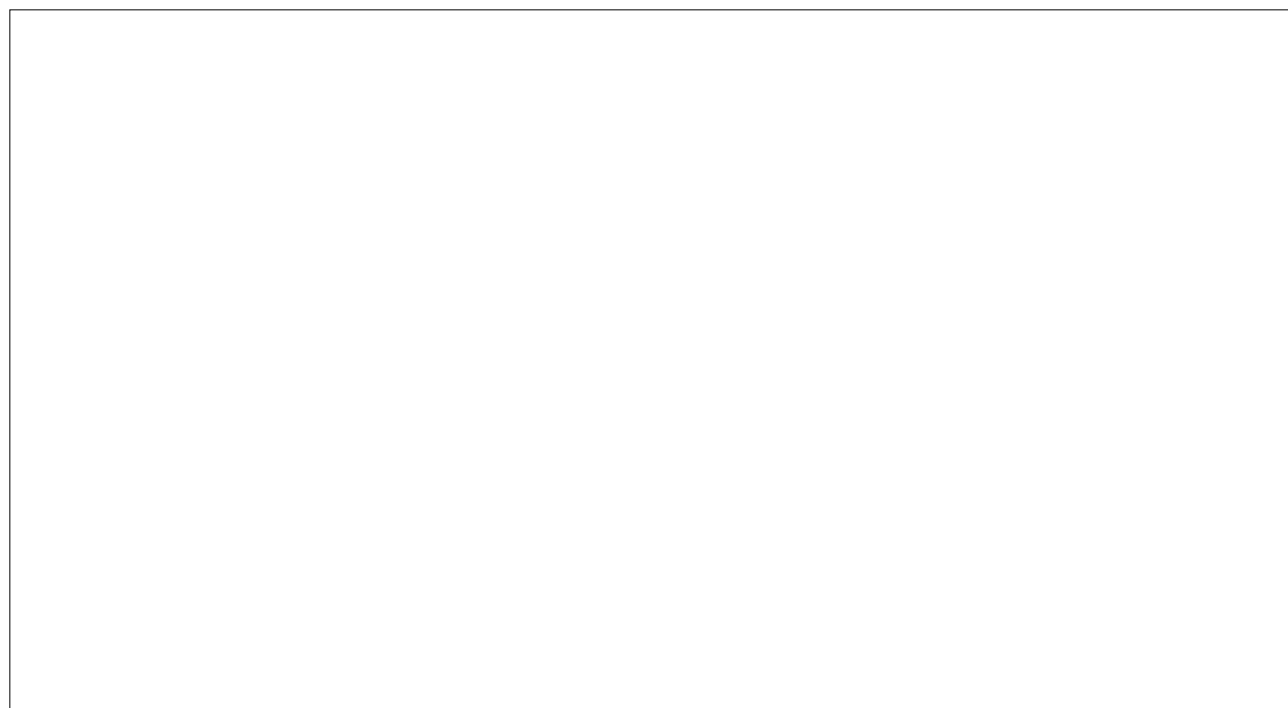
This coordinated action will bring some sections of the country's transport network to a standstill.

In Liverpool all train and bus services will be affected by the strike.

Disputes

All the strikes are part of ongoing disputes. Bus workers in the Unite and GMB unions at Arriva North West have struck for the last six Mondays over pay.

Unite says bosses' latest offer increases pay differences between depots, and is below inflation. Pay can



ARRIVA NORTH West bus workers on strike last month

differ between as much as 2 percent between depots.

There were large picket lines and solid strikes during last month's strike.

One Bolton bus driver told Socialist Worker, "Everyone

is really up for the strike. We're one of the worst paid depots in Manchester. We've had a couple of people go over the picket line but it's been mostly solid. And more people have joined the union

since the strike started.

"The bosses want it to seem like we're the problem, but the public is supportive."

The train strikes are the latest in a long-running dispute about driver only

operation (DOO) trains that bosses want to bring in.

This would remove the safety-critical role of the guard and make the driver responsible for opening and shutting the doors. It would

make train travel less safe and less accessible.

RMT union members at Southern, Greater Anglia, South West Railways and Island Line will stay out on strike on Thursday too.

Recommended

Aslef union members are also in dispute over DOO at Southern, but their union leadership has recommended they accept a new deal.

This would give workers a 28 percent pay rise over five years and a second member of staff would be on board apart from in "exceptional circumstances".

But bosses think some normal parts of running the service are "exceptional".

Other groups of train workers are getting ready to fight. The TSSA union is to ballot its members on Virgin Trains West Coast mainline over pay.

Virgin is giving a 9 percent rise to drivers but just 3.2 percent to other workers on stations and trains. Transport workers should reject bosses' drive for division.

And all workers should back the strikes.

ROYAL MAIL

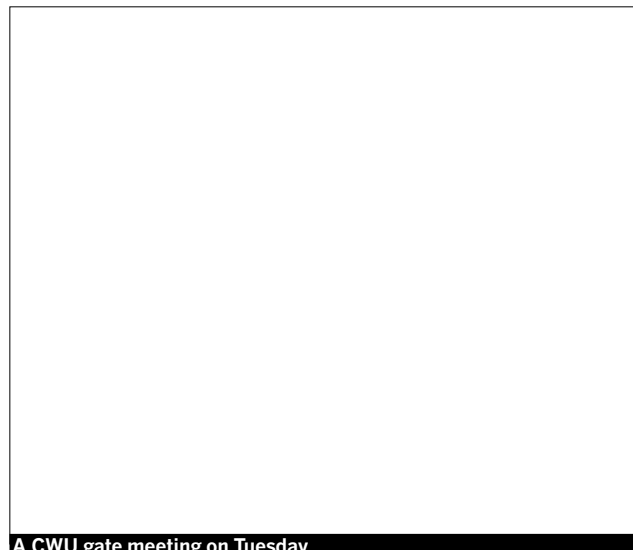
Post workers' mass gate meetings show the fight is still on at Royal Mail

by NICK CLARK

POSTAL WORKERS held mass gate meetings at Royal Mail workplaces across Britain on Tuesday as time ran down on bosses' attempts to delay a strike.

CWU union members held the day of action to keep up momentum in their dispute over pay, pensions and conditions.

They are currently in a period of mediation launched by bosses as a delaying tactic. But there's clearly still anger and a mood to fight among postal workers. One



A CWU gate meeting on Tuesday

gate meeting in Wigan on Tuesday turned into a two hour unofficial walkout, amid allegations that bosses were targeting two workers.

The walkout ended after management promised an investigation into workers' complaints.

And at a gate meeting in south east London postal worker Steve told Socialist Worker, "We're still strong and positive—that's not going to go away. So if we don't get an agreement, we're going to go out."

The meetings came on the same day CWU officials and Royal Mail bosses held their second meeting with

an external mediator.

The high court ordered the CWU into mediation after Royal Mail bosses won an injunction to stop a strike last month.

An agreement signed between the CWU and bosses in 2013 indicates mediation could last at least another three weeks from Tuesday.

But the CWU deputy general secretary Terry Pullinger has said he won't let bosses use the mediation to delay strikes any longer than that.

A message to workers on Tuesday said, "Unless Royal Mail make a significantly

improved offer we will be serving notice for industrial action as soon as mediation ends."

Strikes must go ahead unless there is a deal that:

- Guarantees a pension scheme for all workers in the industry, not just those who've worked there the longest
- Gives workers an above-inflation pay rise not linked to productivity deals
- Guarantees that workers aren't forced to change their hours to fit in with Royal Mail's profit drive
- Gives workers a shorter working week—without loss of pay